SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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HISTORY X

50 years since black rights hero's visit

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POINT MADE

Ideye is Baggies' saviour at Burnley

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SERVICES BETTER NOW SAY CHIEFS

Report by Andrew Turton

UNDER-FIRE children's social care chiefs say they have turned the corner, and drawn up a list of improvements made in the light of a critical independent review.

Sandwell Council has reduced the number of agency staff it uses to below 10 per cent and created a 'fully staffed permanent management team'. The list has been drawn up as Ofsted inspectors embarked on a four-week visit to see if progress has been made after a previous inspection in 2013 rated the department as 'inadequate'.

The Ofsted visit comes weeks after a review by the Local Government Association which still found areas in need of improvement. It came at the request of the Secretary of State to provide reassurance on Sandwell Council's progress after the 2013 'inadequate' rating.

When it was inspected in 2013, the department was said to have failings including a 'lack of a stable management team' and a reliance on agency staff at every level. A report discussed at Monday's children's services scrutiny board said there had been 'poor quality assessments' of children alongside poor IT systems.

Overhauled

But Sandwell councillor Simon Hackett, who is in charge of children's services, said progress had been made over the past two years. Ofsted began its latest inspection of Sandwell's safeguarding and social care services for children and young people on January 28. It is likely to take up to four weeks to complete.

Councillor Hackett said: "Ofsted last inspected these services in 2013 and rated them as inadequate. Since then we have radically overhauled the way we work with children and families in Sandwell to keep them safe. We believe our systems now are much improved. We are keen to demonstrate these improvements to Ofsted and, hopefully, showcase the progress we believe we are making. We think we are on the right track."

Since 2013 the service has been restructured in a bid to stop children having their social worker frequently changed and to remove inefficient working practices.

The Local Government Association carried out an independent peer review in November and found good progress had been made in several areas over the last year.

Hundreds object to centre on parking

PLANS for a new Muslim prayer hall and community centre in Old Hill look set to be refused for the second time. More than 145 objections to the development have been lodged and officers at Sandwell Council have now recommended it is refused due to concerns about parking.

Councillors were due to have the final say on the proposal at a meeting last night. Under the plans, a former Sunday school and church building next to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, off Halesowen Road, would be revamped.

Members of the Old Hill Masjid and Community Centre Association had resubmitted the planning application after it was previously rejected in 2013 on the grounds that there was a 'shortfall' in the number of car parking spaces available.

The association said council representatives only had concerns for a 'very brief period' of the week around busy Friday prayers. They claimed this amounted to a shortfall of around 21 spaces.

But the council's highway department have also opposed the new centre claiming it would lead to 'illegal and inconsiderate' parking. Councillor John Tipper said: "The current premises towards Best Street are woefully inadequate."

Dough have a boring week

YOUNGSTERS who are bonkers about baking can put their skills to the rest when activities, crafts and demonstrations are held at the Black Country Living Museum all next week.

They can watch demonstrations of how bread was baked in the 19th century using a coal-fired oven.

And young bakers can also have a go at making biscuits in a traditional cast-iron range. People can book online at www.bclm.com

Revamped Metro depot ready to run

A REVAMPED Midland Metro depot in Wednesbury has been officially opened.

The project saw the Potters Lane complex upgraded as part of the ongoing £128 million overhaul of the line between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper was joined by the chairman of Centro Councillor John McNicholas.

Councillor Cooper said: "This is a fantastic addition to the Midland Metro infrastructure and proof of our ambition to achieve a higher standard of service. An awful lot of work that has gone into refurbishing the depot while keeping the Metro in operation and I applaud all those who have made it happen."

The project was commissioned in 2012 by Centro and the work was carried out by contractors Morgan Sindall. The first phase was completed in September 2013 in time to allow testing and commissioning of the new fleet of Urbos 3 trams.

The new depot contains a testing and commissioning shed, storage facilities for 24 new vehicles and maintenance works. The project also saw upgrade works to some of the electrical substations and the creation of a new substation at West Bromwich.

Dear beer? Ale do it myself!

Chris Hogg, from Hamstead Brewery, Great Barr, who is seeing great demand for his kits

AS the price of a pint in a pub continues to rise, drinkers are turning away from the big breweries – and doing the job themselves.

Home brewing is growing in popularity and businesses are struggling to keep up with the demand for the equipment.

The Hamstead Brewery in Great Barr has just stocked up 1,000 starter kits that it expects to sell in the coming weeks. Manager Chris Hogg said: "Customers start off looking for value, and the cheapest good quality beer they can get. With pubs closing, people are finding it is harder to get proper beer and the price is going up."

Mr Hogg comes up with a recipe and the basic ingredients are then assembled in America, so customers are left with a simple process that can be done in a day. It mainly involves adding hot water, and then gradually adding a malt extract and hops.

Fraudster at council pocketed up to £30k

A FORMER Sandwell Council finance boss who illegally pocketed almost £30,000 has been spared an immediate stint behind bars.

David Pottinger defrauded the council to the tune of £29,118 by transferring money earmarked for children with special needs into his friends' accounts.

The former senior administration finance manager blamed mounting debts after his marriage broke down. At Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday, the 35-year-old was was given 16 months in jail suspended for two years. He previously admitted seven offences relating to abuse of position as an employee of Sandwell Council. Prosecuting barrister, Mr Mark Jackson told the court the defendant had used his position to wrongly authorise the payments to families that did not exist.

Mr Jackson said the council had protection procedures in place but Pottinger, of Hawkins Street, West Bromwich, had got round the system by 'hijacking' the computer user name and password of another employee. Mr Muktar Ubi, defending, told the court that Pottinger was 'remorseful'.

Recorder Ms Sandra Bristoll also sentenced Pottinger to a nine-month supervision order, a six-month curfew between 8pm and 6am, and 150 hours unpaid work.

Conservatory hit in crash

A CAR smashed through a wall and into a conservatory in West Bromwich.

The driver of the Honda Civic was taken to hospital following the crash in Francis Street, at around 10.50am on Tuesday, but was not seriously hurt.

He is believed to have lost control of the car before careering into the garden. An elderly couple were in the house at the time. West Bromwich fire crews attended to recover the car and ensure the house was safe.

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SANDWELL CHRONICLE

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Former councillor and campaigner Bob Badham

A view of Marshall Street as it is today

The blue plaque on Marshall Street, Smethwick

Day that X marked the spot for racism issue

THE American man's words were blunt, their message foreboding.

"I have come," he said, "because I am disturbed by reports that coloured people in Smethwick are being treated badly. I have heard that they are being treated as the Jews were under Hitler."

Fifty years on from that brief speech, a blue plaque is mounted on the side of a house in Marshall Street, Smethwick. It commemorates the visit of the civil rights activist Malcolm X. Nine days later, back in the USA, he was shot dead.

History records the spokesman for Black Power as a courageous man who sought equality for black people. At the time, his detractors saw him as a preacher of racism and violence.

What was the influential figure doing in Smethwick in the first place? He had journeyed up from London following an address to the Council of African Organisations. He had already been refused entry to France. Smethwick at that time was a byword for racism.

The year before, a Conservative had won the election to be its MP on the back of what must have been the most appallingly racist slogan ever used in Britain in the latter half of the 20th century. Peter Griffiths' supporters went around saying 'if you want a n***** for a neighbour, vote Labour'. Marshall Street epitomised what risked becoming a battleground between the indigenous population and new arrivals from the West Indies, India and Pakistan.

Faced with mounting tension over immigration, the town's council was lobbied by local residents to buy up any properties that came onto the market and let them only to white families. The group of residents, led by Alice Groves, got their way. But the plan was eventually vetoed by the Ministry of Housing. Malcolm X believed it was only the beginning of something else that, left unchecked, would see Britain start to repeat the horrors that befell Jews in the Holocaust.

"I would not wait for the fascist element in Smethwick to erect gas ovens," he said. Malcolm X was accompanied by a BBC camera crew. He posed by a For Sale sign on one of the houses.

Bob Badham was 18 years old at the time and working as a laboratory technician at Birmingham University. His family lived in Montague Road, Smethwick and he saw first hand the tensions that were rising around immigration.

Mr Badham would go on to be one of the leading cabinet councillors in Sandwell. He retired last year. But he also spent 25 years as chairman of the Community of Asians Council. The role was not one that earned him many plaudits.

Indeed he recalls how he would return home from meetings to find the police waiting for him to warn him a threat had been made. "I used to have to use a letter opener because I would get items through the post with razor blades in," he said. "I remember one night there was a Sikh family down the road from us and their power went off.

"My dad went round and mended a fuse for them. That's what neighbours do. He didn't think anything of it. The Sikh family were delighted. They came around and knocked the door and gave us a home made egg custard as a thank you." The Malcolm X visit has become the stuff of legend and has been revisited in documentaries and academic work. Stephen Page, from Darlaston, made a film about the visit. It featured interviews with politicians, young people and members of the community.

Mr Page, aged 48 and originally of Slater Street, has spent years working in Hollywood, appearing in the TV series lost. Of his Malcolm X documentary he said: "I remembered reading about it in the 1980s and realised a lot of people never knew Malcolm X had been to Smethwick. I thought that was odd. I won a commission to make the film, A Day In Smethwick."

In 2012 a blue plaque was put on the side of a house in Marshall Street. It was first suggested by the Nubian Jak Community Trust, which organises Britain's only black and minority ethnic national plaque scheme.

Spokesman Jak Beula said: "It's very sad he did not live to see the benefit of his visit. Today there are people born in Smethwick to parents and grandparents who were born elsewhere."

Malcolm X seen in Marshall Street, Smethwick with a house which was put up for sale

Steve Page, who has made a film about Malcolm X

Conservative MP for Smethwick, Peter Griffiths

Concert in memory of killed girl is due

A ROCK concert is to be held in memory of murdered teenager Christina Edkins in the hope of raising funds to improve the community where she went to school.

Local bands will perform on stage at the event which has been organised by Dave Williamson, a friend of Christina's father. Money raised from the show will be used to begin the refurbishment of Halesowen's scout hut in Mucklow Hill.

The 16-year-old was stabbed to death on a bus on the way to school in March 2013. It was after her tragic death that Mr Williamson got back in touch with her father Jason.

The builder, of Howdle's Lane, Brownhills, was desperate to help and agreed to organise the rock concert, which will be held at the Asylum in Birmingham on March 14. He said: "Her parents wanted to do this, they wanted to help out children. They saw this as a good project, it's something they though Christina would like."

As a father of two girls himself, Mr Williamson was struck by the schoolgirl's death. Tickets for the show, a Night of Rock in Memory of Christina Edkins, can be bought from www.theasylumvenue.co.uk

Hospital staff absence is up

SICKNESS absence has increased at Walsall Manor hospital during the last 12 months, figures have shown. The number of staff who were off through ill at the Manor increased to 5.8 per cent in December.

The largest cause of sickness during the month was due to stress and anxiety, according to a report to the health trust.

Head of finance Ian Baines said: "Sickness levels have increased to 5.80 per cent in December compared to 4.01 per cent monthly trajectory and 5.3 per cent in November."

Patient died, 74

AN inquest has opened on a man who died in hospital at Walsall. Widower John Barrett, aged 74, of Field Lane, Pelsall, died at the Manor Hospital on January 26. The hearing will be concluded at the coroners court sitting at SmethwickCouncil House on March 19.

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Plenty of fun for all on way at museum

PLENTY of activities are in store this half term for children and families at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery.

All the fun starts on the weekend starting on Monday when the venue hosts a fun and games sessions until Tuesday, February 17.

Visitors will be able to pop in between 10am to 3pm to play giant Snakes and Ladders, Connect 4 as well as classic games like Mouse Trap, Downfall, Kerplunk and Guess Who.

The gallery's Nintendo Wii will also be up and running with a variety of games and activities. Next Thursday there will be a chance to meet some animals from around the world, watch a martial arts demonstration, create a Chinese Dragon Puppet, decorate a lantern or a Chinese Dragon mask as well as lots of other fun.

On Friday, February 20 staff at the Museum and Art Gallery will be celebrating the Chinese New Year in style with a number of workshops in how to create a miniature version of the famous Chinese Terracotta Warriors. Workshops will take place at 11am, 1pm, 2pm and will cost £2 per person. For more information on the Art Gallery call 0121 556 0683.

200 at peace conference

MORE than 200 people attended a peace conference held to express the values of Islam. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association from Walsall hosted the event at Darlaston Town Hall.

Deputy town Mayor Angela Underhill and Walsall Council leader Sean Coughlan were among those in attendance while Maulana Ataul Mujeeb Rashid, the Imam of London Mosque, provided a speech.

Mr Rashid also answered questions from visitors on a number of topics including Jihad and he firmly rejected all forms of terrorism.

Chip shop bid

PLANS have been put forward for a new fish and chip shop in a Black Country street. The two-storey premises have been earmarked for Pinson Street, Willenhall, creating two jobs. The application will be considered in the coming months.

Councillor calls to clean up atrocious litter

Councillors Paul and Chris Bott

A COUNCILLOR is calling for action to clear "atrocious" litter from a main route through the Black Country which creates wrong image of the region.

The Black Country New Road (A4444), is a spine road which runs through Moxley, and the A34 South, linking Walsall and Birmingham.

It is also a route taking motorists from Wednesbury and West Bromwich to the M5 at Junction 1.

But Darlaston South representative Councillor Chris Bott said she is not impressed with rubbish lying off the road. She said: "The road is a right mess. The grass verges are litter strewn, there are road signs and barriers missing, the carriageway markings are so faint motorists can hardly make them out.

"This is not the image that we want for this area.

"The roadsides are full of rubbish on the Walsall side of the dual carriageway.

"It seems to me that Wolverhampton City Council do a pretty good job of maintaining their side opposite.

"It is absolutely atrocious and it's not a very good example to be setting if we want to attract more businesses to Moxley. We have got Wiggle (online retailer) moving in to the Citadel warehouse nearby so we need to be seen to be making more of an effort here to keep the surroundings tidy and ship shape.

"Everybody has been complaining about it for a few months now.

"All along the route from the Moxley island right up to the lights and across to the A41 Holyhead Road you can see issues," Councillor Bott said.

Town hall officers have promised to look into it, but no action has yet been taken.

100mph M'way drink driver given a two-year road ban

A DRINK-DRIVER clocked speeding at 100mph in a temporary 30mph zone on the motorway, after undertaking a police car, has been banned from the roads for two years.

Triston Hamilton, 30, from Wolverhampton was more than twice the legal alcohol limit when officers stopped his Volkswagen Scirocco on the M6 near Birmingham.

Hamilton, of Fordhouse Road, Bushbury, was also fined £665 at Birmingham Magistrates' Court yesterday after pleading guilty to drink driving and speeding.

His sentence has been described as 'shocking' by road safety charity Brake, which said Hamilton should have been given a larger fine.

The court heard that Hamilton was arrested at the roadside after failing the breath-test in the early hours of January 25.

The mechanic-turned-barber was filmed reaching a speed of 100mph on a section of the A38(M) Aston Expressway reduced to two lanes and with a 30mph limit in place because of roadworks.

His car was then followed onto the M6 northbound, where he was pulled over and gave a roadside breath test reading of 74mg in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 34mg.

Hamilton, who also works as a builder, was not represented by a lawyer but told District Judge Robert Zara that he had since sold his car.Hamilton's ban will be reduced by 24 weeks if he completes a driver awareness course.

He was fined £665, and ordered to pay £85 in costs and a £40 victim surcharge.

Occupancy record for city hotels

HOTELS in Birmingham have achieved record occupancy levels for the second time in three months.

Travel research company STR Global has released figures show there was an average 85 per cent occupancy rate in the city's hotels in November. The new peak follows a previous high in September 2014 which saw an average of 82 per cent occupancy.

In addition, the average room rate for November increased by £8 year on year to £65. The city's busy conferencing and corporate event calendar also saw weekday occupancy rates enjoy a marked rise, up 5.1 per cent year on year in the final quarter of 2014.

Birmingham played host to a number of high profile events in November including the German Christmas Market, which launched on November 13 and the BBC Good Food Show from November 27 to 30.

Emma Gray, from Marketing Birmingham, said: "These latest record hotel occupancy figures are incredibly positive."

Bill is still making a splash at 90

Bill Griffiths celebrates his 90th birthday at Smethwick Swim Centre with daughter Ann Staniland

BY now Oldbury man Bill Griffiths should have developed gills and webbed feet.

From his service in the Royal Navy during the Second World War to years spent teaching youngsters to swim, he has spent much of his time submerged in water.

And even though he turned 90 recently the Oldbury resident has no plans to give it up any time soon. In 2012, Bill – who has two children, seven grandchildren and a great-granddaughter and now swims at Smethwick Swimming Centre each Friday morning.

His daughter, Anne Staniland, takes him to the pool – formerly known as Thimblemill Baths – where he also swam as a child in the 1930s.

"The doctor thinks the fact he continues to swim is the best thing ever," she said. "He knows all the lifeguards and reception staff at the centre and they think he is great."

Bill won swimming trophies as a youngster at Smethwick Hall School on Stony Lane before joining the Navy where he also played water polo.

During the Second World War he worked on a destroyer and served all around the Mediterranean. Anne added: "He loves telling the story of how it was his job to dive down and retrieve the dummy torpedoes when they had done practice shots."

"Everyone who knows him says it is keeping active that is keeping him young," said Anne.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Students union's election events

WALSALL College's students union team held a series of general election workshops to encourage youngsters to vote.

Hundreds of students attended the college's workshops and took part in a range of exercises, designed to open up discussions on politics and provide information about the effect that decisions made at government level could have on their lives.

Students were tasked with deciding how they would split £100 between different areas including education, defence, welfare and the NHS.

Community cafe set for high street

A COMMUNITY cafe is being set up at a church on a Black Country high street.

Bearwood Chapel will open the business in Bearwood Road in the coming weeks. An open day was held last month for people to see what is being planned.

The shop unit was taken over to give the church a presence on the high street. The church itself is located behind the cafe.

For more information visit www.bearwoodchapel.org.uk.

Charity store is extending hours

A NEW retail store in Cannock is extending opening hours to seven days a week just three months after launching.

Newlife's third shop in the town has enjoyed success since opening in November, say bosses.

It is extending trading hours for a trial period, to include Mondays, until the end of March. Previously it opened from Tuesday to Sunday.

Theatre group plans reunion

A THEATRE group is planning to organise a reunion to marks its 20th anniversary.

Anybody who has been a member of the Harlequin Youth Theatre and Dance Academy in Sundial Lane, Great Barr, is being invited to contact the group. They can call lead volunteer Sheila Chamberlain-Hyett on 0121 358 4727.

Mercury show

A TRIBUTE to Freddie Mercury will be at Calderfields Golf & Country Club in Aldridge Road, Walsall on February 20 at 7pm. The show is followed by a DJ. Tickets are available from 01922 632243

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

GO Set a Watchman is the title of Harper Lee's forthcoming novel. Curious. I assumed the sequel to To Kill a Mockingbird would be To Cook a Mockingbird.

ANYONE else surprised at the reports describing the bus-v-tree incident in London as a "freak accident?" If the bus is too high and the tree branch is too low, that's not freakery. It's maths.

WAY back in ye olden days we kids were expected to know our times tables by the time we left infant school at seven. We learned them by reciting them.

The latest plan, to teach kids their times tables by the age of 11, was described this week as "ambitious." And while we're on the subject. In primary school, we 1950s kids understood verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. We did long division and multiplication. We did nature study and art, history, geography and PE. We sang sea shanties around the piano and did country dancing to the wireless. We could recite the Magnificat and the Beatitudes. And we were never, ever given any homework.

A POLICE campaign against thefts from vans in the West Midlands shows thieves breaking open a van's rear door in just six seconds and stealing valuable tools. Of course, drivers should leave nothing inside worth nicking. But surely the van makers must share the blame. Modern car-door locks make it virtually impossible to drive away a vehicle without the key. So why can the rear doors on a van be breached in six seconds?

BEST moment by far in Inside the Commons (BBC2) came when the new Rotherham MP Sarah Champion, flushed with success after getting a clause inserted in the law on child abuse, was talking excitedly to the camera.

Suddenly David Cameron passed across the screen behind her and, barely stopping, said: "Well spoken. That was very good." So this is our Sarah, the woman of the people, the no-nonsense, ecky-thump socialist from Oop North. She's unexpectedly face-to-face with the uber-toff Tory from Downing Street, the heir to Thatcher, and he's saying sweet things to her. So how did she react? May a hint of shock and irritation. But also a girlish fluster, like a lass unexpectedly kissed by someone she secretly fancied. It was a reminder that the Palace of Westminster is a seductive club which draws in even those MPs who are determined to be outsiders. A reminder, too, that MPs tend to be closer to each other than they are to us, the people.

THINGS to do on a snowy day. I didn't know until this week that the DVLA website offers a free service to find out the tax status of any motor vehicle. A reader tells me he belongs to a motor club which used the website to check the status of 300 entrants to a rally. Although all t displayed tax discs 50 of them, according to the DVLA, were untaxed or incorrectly registered.

A REPORT in Wales proposes "breaking up the old-boy network" by setting limits on how long local councillors can serve. This is revolutionary stuff. At present, councillors can be in power from puberty to the grave, so long as they represent one of those seats where a three-toed sloth would get elected if it wore the right-coloured rosette. Council chambers are full of the municipal equivalent of bed-blockers who soldier on long after they have served their purpose, dunking their free biscuits in their free tea. So what maximum length of term does the Welsh report suggest? Five years? Ten years, perhaps? Nope. The proposed limit is 25 years. Small revolution in Wales; not many affected. Back to your biscuits, grandad.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Death driver loses appeal on jail term

A DRIVER who had never had a single driving lesson before he killed his passenger in a high speed smash deserved every day of his jail term, top judges have ruled.

Ashley David Lovekin, aged 25, lost control of a Peugeot 206 while racing another car before slamming into a lamp post in a collision which left 31-year-old Nicola Robinson dead. Lovekin, who previously served a custodial term for killing his mother's boyfriend – was jailed for five years and eight months at Wolverhampton Crown Court, last July. He admitted his dangerous driving caused Ms Robinson's death, as well as serious injury to his other passenger.

Lovekin, of Springfield Road, Dudley, was also ruled a 'dangerous' offender and was ordered to serve five years on extended licence after his release.

Three senior judges at a hearing on Friday at London's Appeal Court rejected a sentence challenge by Lovekin, saying the judge was 'perfectly entitled' to find him a danger to society.

Mr Justice Mitting said Lovekin climbed behind the wheel of the Peugeot at about 3.45am on August 4, 2013 – despite having no licence, no insurance and never having had a driving lesson.

With Ms Robinson and a 23-year-old man in the car, Lovekin was spotted travelling at over 50mph in a 30mph zone along Birmingham Road, Blakenhall, in the lead up to the crash. The judge said the sentence he received was 'entirely justified'.

Full speed ahead for hamburger island bid

COUNCIL chiefs will press ahead with plans for a hamburger island to ease traffic jams around the notoriously congested Birchley Island after a majority backed the scheme.

A £12.7 million overhaul of the island, which is used by around 92,000 drivers a day, was revealed almost two years ago after it emerged that surrounding roads were reaching capacity at peak times.

by Andrew Turton

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper called for a fresh consultation after council officers originally favoured the scheme ahead of plans for a traffic light control junction backed by the public.

Now 83 per cent of the public, motorists and businesses have voted in favour of the 'two-way hamburger island' - so called because the roundabout is effectively split in two.

This plan would mean Wolverhampton Road would be reconstructed so that it would pass through the current island in both directions next to the electricity sub-station.

There will also be four lanes from the M5 junction two to and from Birchley Island and traffic signals from the Churchbridge approach.

Councillor Ian Jones said: "These vital improvements are needed to our road network to provide a safe and efficient transport system. This is one of the main gateways into Sandwell and investing in Birchley Island will ease congestion."

The plans are expected to be approved by Sandwell Council's cabinet later this month. If approved, the council will then approach the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership to get funding for the project.

Highways officials claimed congestion was hitting businesses, public transport and creating long queues of traffic trying to reach the M5 and wider motorways network.

Four options were devised to bring improvements to the island during the original consultation last year.

Two of these options were rejected as a result of detailed analysis of their performance and benefits.

Council officers had recommended a two-way 'hamburger' island be installed at the congestion hotspot.

But more than half of public views were in favour of a different option, costing £12.9 million, which would create a traffic junction similar to that at Burnt Tree.

Gas powered gun shock

AN 18-year-old man was injured after attackers shot a gas powered gun through his car window, police have confirmed. Officers were called to Oldbury Road, West Bromwich on Friday afternoon after a group of up to five men approached the car and discharged the firearm through the window. They closed nearby roads while they carried out initial investigations. The man suffered minor cuts to the arm and a female passenger was unhurt. Efforts are on-going to trace the men responsible, or the vehicle they drove off in, possibly a white Audi 4x4. Anyone with information is asked to call 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Snooker boom right on cue

Treasurer Les Green of West Brom and chairman Ron Whitehouse of Wednesbury

A keen snooker fan is hoping the sport's current global boom will attract new members to a Wednesbury club.

The Wesley Retired Men's Snooker Club, is looking for new players to try their skills on its two tables.

Bosses at the club in the Wesley Centre, Spring Head want more retired men to give it a go, with only a dozen regular players on board currently.

Under the leadership of Barry Hearn, snooker has returned to huge popularity in recent years with more televised tournaments screened than ever before and huge prize money on offer for professionals.

Club treasurer Leslie Green is hoping the current snooker boom can help the club bring more snooker loopy fans to the table.

New and current members can play on any of the Wesley Centre's two tables between noon and 4pm, Monday to Friday for just £1. Play is also available between 9am and 12pm on a Saturday at the same price. Call 0121 556 0420.

Robber in £23k theft left his bus pass

A ROBBER who was caught after leaving his travel pass in a car he had stolen has been jailed for eight years.

Jordan McDonald had used the car as a getaway vehicle after he and three accomplices robbed a Smethwick man who had collected the wages for his colleagues from a bank in Handsworth Wood.

The four, travelling in a Toyota Corolla, pulled up alongside the 26-year-old victim in The Spinney and, after taking a metal bar from the boot, demanded that he hand over the £23,000 in £50 notes. They had earlier spotted the man withdrawing the cash from the bank.

The car was later found abandoned in New Spring Gardens, Winson Green by officers searching for the gang.McDonald, aged 23, of Aston, had denied the offence but was found guilty at Birmingham Crown Court where the jury heard that a search of McDonald's girlfriend's house revealed £5,800 in sequential £50 bank notes. The cash equated to about a quarter of the 'spoils' shared between the offenders which McDonald tried to pass off as cash received from the sale of a car, even producing a receipt.

Opera and pop on bill

NEW performer Operali will be on the bill at the next lunchtime concert at Darlaston Town Hall.

The singer, real name Alison Atkins-Green, will be the special guest at the monthly bash which will be held next Thursday at the venue in Victoria Road. The 43-year-old combines opera with pop classics.

She was a finalist at the Open Mic UK contest at Birmingham's NEC last month. Operali, of Penkridge, Staffordshire, combines opera with pop classics. The town hall event will start at 1.30pm. Entry is £2.50.

Lights in place

TEMPORARY traffic lights will be in place on a main road through Walsall for a total of three weeks. Restrictions will start on Monday on Darlaston Road, situated near the junction of Cemetery Road for water main works from 7pm to 6am each day.

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Deputy of council to take part in big run

THE deputy leader of Birmingham City Council will be putting on his running shoes to raise money charity. Councillor Ian Ward is in training to run the Great Birmingham 10k in aid of Help Harry Help Others.

The campaign was started by youngster Harry Moseley who died from a brain tumour in 2011, aged 11.

Harry raised thousands of pounds for charity and founded Help Harry Help Others. The charity is now run by his mother Georgina Moseley.

Councillor Ward said: "I'm proud to be raising money for such a worthwhile cause. Harry was an inspiration, winning the love and respect of so many. Over three years after his death, his charity continues to help many people."

Harry's mother Georgina added: "We're really thrilled that Councillor Ward has got behind Harry's work and that he sees the value in what we're trying to do.

"We're a very tiny charity, although we have a lot of support, and this is such a great thing in terms of awareness of what we're trying to achieve." To sponsor Councillor Ward visit www.justgiving.com/Ian-Ward6

Next phase of college work

THE next stage of work is set to start on the development of Birmingham Metropolitan College's James Watt Campus in Great Barr.

Internal access to the campus' Blackstone and Aldridge Buildings will be disrupted until June 2015 as part of the £11 million revamp, which will create a new Sustainable Energy Centre, reception area, learning resources centre and enhanced study centres.

A new entrance will be opened at the back of the Blackstone Building for staff and students. Groundwork began in June last year.

Crash delays

TWO cars crashed on a busy route through the Black Country, causing delays. It happened on Darlaston Road, near the Woden Road West junction, at just before 9am last Thursday. No-one was seriously road and the scene was fully cleared within two hours.

Man dragged more than 160ft by fleeing car

A self-employed builder had the tip of his finger severed after being dragged by a car more than 164 feet along a street in Oldbury as he went to investigate crash outside his home.

Darren Shelley-Mellor ran outside when he heard a loud bang to discover his Ford Transit van parked outside his home in Penncricket Lane had been hit by a passing red car.The 37-year-old said he ran over to the vehicle and opened the door to speak to the driver, fearing he could be injured.

But the car was put in reverse and began to swerve backwards, taking Mr Shelley-Mellor with it.

The father-of-four stepchildren and one step grandchild was dragged along the street until the car collided with a lamp post, smashing the glass in the driver's door and throwing Mr Shelley-Mellor onto the pavement. The car then sped off along Penncricket Lane, towards Oldbury Road, and out of sight.

Mr Shelley-Mellor was taken to Sandwell General Hospital and later transferred to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he had stitches to the severed tip of his first finger on his right hand.

"When I heard the loud bang, I ran out and found he had hit the van and it was diagonal across the road," he said.

"I thought the person in the car would have been badly injured so I went to check if he was alright. He put the car in reverse and I held on. All I remember is being dragged down the road. I let go in the end because I thought the car was going to crush me. It all happened so quickly."

The drama unfolded at around 9.45pm on November 27 last year but detectives have only just made it public as they are hunting the driver of the small red car involved in the incident. The driver was described as an Asian man, in his early to mid 20s, of fairly slim build, with a designer type beard which came down in a single line from his side burns to his jaw. Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Five years jail for brothers in £750,000 stolen car ring

TWO brothers behind a £750,000 stolen car ring have both been locked up for five years. Hamza and Eizam Riasat cut up more than 36 vehicles taken from car parks and driveways.

They targeted cars throughout the Black Country, Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Using a device that bypasses the need for an ignition key to start the engine, they stole BMWs, Minis, Mercedes and Citroens.

by John Scott

The brothers operated from industrial units in Franchise Street, Wednesbury, and Elmore Green Road, Bloxwich. The cars were driven there after being stolen by others.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard this week how the cannibalised vehicles were then sold through a variety of different ways including eBay.

Tracker

The racket was smashed after the tracker device on a BMW stolen from Morrisons supermarket in George Street, Solihull, was traced to the Franchise Street address on July 12, 2012, where it was found along with a Mini and Vauxhall Corsa that had been stolen 48 hours earlier.

Parts from up to £300,000 worth of dismantled stolen cars were also found.

The property was rented by Eizam, a 37-year-old father of four from Walstead Road, Walsall, and he was arrested the following day. Further inquiries then linked the lock-up to his brother, who had rented it from 2010 until Eizam took over the lease in October 2011.

Police also discovered that car salesman Hamza, aged 29 who lived at the same address as his brother – had bought the industrial unit in Elmore Green Road in June 2012.

Parts from a further £430,000 worth of cars were recovered there and he was detained in August 2012.

Some of the ID marks had been ground down and removed but specialist vehicle examiners were still able to identify the vehicles from which the parts had been taken.

The brothers were freed on bail pending further inquiries and did not appear in court charged with conspiracy to handle stolen property until a year later.

They denied the offence but were convicted after a trial and had been remanded in custody for sentence.

No repeat of music festival

A music festival that attracted 64,000 fans will not be returning to the West Midlands this year.

It was hoped Wireless in Birmingham would become an annual event – but organisers say it will only be held in London.

The three-day festival at Perry Park in July last year was headlined by rapper Kanye West, Bruno Mars and Pharrell Williams.

David Walliams during a question and answer session at Hargate Primary School

Comic proves a hit with students

PUPILS at a West Bromwich school got a surprise guest for their morning assembly – Little Britain funnyman and Britain's Got Talent judge, David Walliams.

Youngsters at Hargate Primary School, on Hargate Lane, were surprised to find the comedian take the place of their headteacher last week. The visit had been organised by MP Tom Watson, who met Walliams through his work at the Commons.

The star was in the area after the first day of auditions for Britain's Got Talent kicked off in Birmingham.Mr Watson said: "I have known David for a few years now and since he was up for the Britain's Got Talent auditions I dropped him a note telling him all about Hargate School. David very quickly responded.

"He was brilliant. He spoke to the students and read an extract from his book Gangsta Granny, doing all the characters himself. Then he did a question-and-answer session."

Walliams also donated his back catalogue of books to the school's brand new library, as well as a copy of his new book, The Queen's Orang-utan, which he is releasing for Comic Relief.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patrols increased after yob attacks

POLICE patrols will be stepped up on a Walsall estate after youths pelted cars with stones in a spate of attacks. Reports of bad behaviour at Pheasey Park Farm, Great Barr, included that objects were thrown at community buildings.

The West Midlands Police website stated: "On Tuesday January 20 several calls were received about a large group of youths acting in an anti social manner. The names and addresses of any youths acting in an anti social manner will be shared with partner agencies."

Profits for JLR fall at year's end

THERE was a sharp dip in profits at Jaguar Land Rover at the end of last year, new figures revealed.

In the three months to the end of December pre-tax profit of £685 million was down 18.6 per cent compared to the same period the year before.

Revenue for the three months was up 10.3 per cent to £5.88 billion, thanks to the success of top-priced models such as the Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Jaguar F-Type.

Legend Satriani to play at venue

LEGENDARY guitarist Joe Satriani will perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall in November.

The venue has been included on the musician's nine-date Shockwave Tour supporting his latest album.

The Birmingham gig will be held on November 2.

People can book tickets by calling 0844 888 9991 or online at www.ticketline.co.uk

Invitation to join weekly cycle ride

A weekly cycle ride is inviting people of all ages and abilities to join in.

Every Wednesday at 10am people can meet at the Stonnall School bus stop, at the junction of Main Street and Church Lane.

A route will be decided on the day.

Anyone under 18 must be with an adult.

Roadworks due

ROADWORKS will be in place during gas mains work from February 11 to 17. Temporary traffic signals will operate along Dumblederry Lane, near the junction of Middlemore Lane, Aldridge.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

SOME years ago, a former chancellor of the exchequer once remarked that mobile phones were 'the scourge of modern society'. He was wrong.

Norman Lamont's comments came long before smart phones and text messaging, which have turned a generation of teenagers into zombies.

But even in the early 1990s, mobile phones were starting to grate. However, that irritation pales into insignificance compared to the another supposed advance in telecommunications technology: the automated telephone system.

You know it, you make a phone call and are greeted by words to the effect "I can't be bothered to pick up the phone, so press one if you want another tedious set of options, press two if you want to be put on hold for 10 minutes, or press three if you are a new customer and have your credit card handy, in which case we will gladly part you from your money."

Actually, those precise words are very seldom used, which is a shame, because at least they would be honest. But you get the drift.

Now, such devices do have their place, such as paying utility bills, where it is easier to key in a few digits rather than dropping a cheque off in the post. But is there anything more infuriating than calling, say, a school, and having to listen to a string of messages about 'student absences' before you can get to speak to a member of staff? Aside from the fact schools don't have students. They have pupils.

Last week, I twice tried to top up my pay-as-you-go mobile phone using one of these automated lines, and on neither occasion was my account successfully credited. So how do you get through to an operator for help? You can hear all about how pressing different buttons will allow you to sign up to free calls, unlimited texts and 4G data packages, but if nothing happens, there is no option to actually speak to an operator. I still don't know now whether I have paid for the unlimited free calls and texts I haven't received.

If businesses want to prosper, they would do well to remember that customers will only tolerate so much of this. And for the public sector organisations which use this hateful technology: pick up the flipping phone.

□□□□□

MPs were out in force last week to vote overwhelmingly in favour of creating 'three parent' babies, using a mixture of carefully-blended DNA to prevent genetic defects in children.

On balance, I'm still on the fence on this one, I can see the arguments from both sides. But isn't it strange that while politicians who spend years deliberating over the merits or otherwise of genetically modified tomatoes, they suddenly become so decisive on the subject of genetically-modified children?

The destruction in Union Street, Tipton

Wednesbury Road Congregational Church after the raid

Devastation caused by the Zeppelin strike in Walsall

Recalling shock of Zeppelin strikes

ADAM BURLING reports on plans to remember the 100th anniversary of bomb raids on the Black Country

DOZENS were killed and buildings were destroyed as bombs rained down on the Black Country.

Now – as the 100th anniversary approaches – a memorial could be set up in one of the towns that was devastated by Zeppelin attacks in the First World War.

Plans are now being drawn up for a permanent memorial – possibly a plaque – in Tipton to mark 100 years since 33 people were killed in the Zeppelin raids.

Wednesbury, Bilston and Walsall were also targeted. But it was all a mistake – as a German airship pilot mistook Wednesbury for Merseyside.

The devastation, though, caused sent shockwaves through communities for generations to come.

Archives

Amateur historian Derrick Nicholls has spent two-and-a-half years researching the raids and is now turning his attention to how the 100th anniversary could best be commemorated.

He held an exhibition at Tipton Library a year ago, and has since continued to delve through the archives for details on the captains of the Zeppelins that were eventually shot down.

His research has also revealed more information about the victims, with Mr Nicholls attempting to piece together a fuller picture of exactly who they were.

It is hoped a full list of the victims and their circumstances will be complete ready for the anniversary next year.

Mr Nicholls has also been busy building a model of an L19 Zeppelin that ended up crashing into the North Sea, with a British fishing boat refusing to rescue the crew.

Archivist Derrick Nicholls, who has put the exhibition together

Mr Nicholls, aged 72, is a member of Tipton Civic Society, which will discuss the memorial at a meeting next month and come up with a more detailed plan.

Mr Nicholls said: "I'd would like to see a plaque of some sort, but I would like it to be something more than just those blue plaques that you get on the side of buildings. It could perhaps include an image of a Zeppelin or something that symbolises what happened."

It is 100 years since the first Zeppelin raids in the UK – four people were killed in King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth – and historians say those raids on January 19 and 20, 1915, changed the face of the First World War, with the Zeppelin air raids going on to claim a total 435 British lives in the conflict.

A fleet of Zeppelins started making their way to attack Liverpool on January 31, 1916 – but two of the pilots got lost in heavy fog.

The L21 and L19 aircraft were actually over the Midlands when the captains believed they were in the north west. When Kapitanleutnant Max Dietrich thought he had seen Liverpool and Birkenhead beneath his L21, he was in fact looking at the Black Country.

He ordered his crew of 16 to start dropping the deadly bombs on the unsuspecting residents.

Bombs first hit Union Street in Tipton, with around five of the devices falling all around. One also fell outside Tipton railway station and more around Barnfield Road trading estate.

In all 14 people were killed in the town as the bombs struck at around 8pm.

Wednesbury Road Congregational Church in Walsall was also badly damaged. The L19 Zeppelin was later found in the North Sea, having crashed off the coast at Grimsby.

Edna Smith, at the time a four-year-old living in Walsall, said: "It was very noisy, like a grinding noise, we didn't know where it went to.

Treatment

"I didn't think much about it at the time, but we learned the next day that it had bombed a church."

An inquest was held jointly for 13 of the victims of the Tipton bombing on February 3. The 14th victim Louisa York, who worked as nurse, had been taken for treatment at Dudley Guest Hospital and her inquest was held elsewhere.

The ruling from the inquest on the death certificates states 'Wilful murder against the Kaiser of Germany and his son the Crown Prince as being accessory to and after the fact' at the insistence of the inquest jury.

Others to have died in the Tipton bombing were Elizabeth Cartwright, aged 35; Benjamin Goldie, 42; Daniel Whitehouse, 34; Annie Wilkinson, 44; Frederick N Yates, nine; George H Onions, 12; and 26-year-old shoemaker Arthur Edwards.

Mr Nicholls is holding a talk about the Zeppelins at Sedgley Church Hall on February 26 at 7.30pm.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE Black Country Growth Deal promises £162 million and a wish list of huge projects, but forgive me if I won't believe it until I see it.

I'm not being negative about this. It's fantastic. The deal promises the long-awaited rebuild of Wolverhampton rail station, a major revamp of the Civic Halls, new buildings for colleges in Dudley and Halesowen, improvements to junction 10 of the M6, 5,000 jobs and 1,400 homes.

It is effectively the blueprint for putting these great towns and city on the path to prosperity, a brighter future and so on and so on. The problem is it's still not quite a done deal. There is still the matter of the authorities getting the go-ahead to borrow the money for the rail station or raise it another way.

At the end of this month it'll be 10 years since I started training to be a reporter. And in all that time there has been the plan to rebuild what is, to be frank, an embarrassingly ugly rail station that does nothing to welcome would-be investors to the city of Wolverhampton.

Difficult

Progress has been made, of course. The bus station's been up for almost four years and the new office and shop block nearby is getting going.

But the rail station itself limps on. New designs have come and gone. And the more that happens, the more difficult it becomes to generate anything akin to excitement among the people who should be welcoming this with open arms – the public.

There are some upbeat messages coming out of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, which has done well to establish itself alongside the larger neighbour, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP.

Stewart Towe, the Black Country LEP's chairman, had a wonderful turn of phrase when he introduced cities minister Greg Clark at the growth deal-signing ceremony. at the Civic Halls.

He explained how Mr Clark had seen the rail station represented an 'opportunity' for development. That's a kinder description than the Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin once gave when he said it was 'awful'.

It's good we have people like Mr Towe going to bat for us when it comes to campaigning for funding. He will be far more diplomatic about seeking funding or devolved powers than a lot of people who have kept having to look at artists' impressions rather than seeing cranes on the skyline.

Maybe there will be a pre-election rabbit pulled from the hat. Now is definitely the right time for vote-seeking parties to start making promises to voters in marginal seats like the Black Country.

Yellow brick road is on the way

WHILST I commend Sandwell Council's attempt at putting a stop to dog owners' selfish pastime of fouling the footpaths with their 'foul' linguistic message on billboards, I am dumbstruck by another attempt some bright spark has come up with.

Coming soon to a footpath near you will be some immovable graffiti informing you that there used to be a little dog parcel at this point. Council leader Cooper is proud of this new idea, boasting that already there are over 130 of these yellow stencils adorning the pavements of Sandwell.

In his blog Councillor Cooper states, "It's disgusting and it costs the Council tens of thousands of pounds a year just cleaning up dog mess." Well now he has to add the cost of a graffiti clean-up team to the costs for the cash strapped council. All the idea needed was a washable spray that will fade after a few weeks. Some I have noticed in Tipton have been there for over a month now. Unless a change is made I think we will all be following the Yellow Brick Road wherever our ruby slippers take us in Sandwell.

R KEELING, Great Barr

Pride in town is long gone

A LETTER from R Jesson in Oxfordshire says there's a mess from the Hawthorns to the crematorium.

Well, if he lived here, he would see a big mess everywhere, railway sidings, the back of every shop on the high street...The people of West Bromwich used to be proud people and took pride in where they lived.

Now no-one cares and everyone blames the council. But shouldn't the ones who drop the rubbish take the blame and whatever happened to the care and pride in West Bromwich? It should start at home.

MRS J RICHARDSON
Wigmore Farm Estate

Japanese not listening again

I FEEL very sorry for the Japanese family of the person beheaded. Despite the fact that many countries and their people pleaded, begged, prayed.

Japan would not listen 70 years ago when they beheaded six members of the Allies' Z Force which operated behind enemy lines.

MR R A MARSHALL, Smethwick

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Delays should not derail tram hopes

I REALISE it is annoying that the work on the track from the Royal to St Georges is overrunning but I am sure that everyone is doing their best to get it all back up and running as soon as possible.

I am sure that neither Centro, the companies undertaking the work, or National Express who run the Metro service are doing this deliberately to inconvenience passengers. It certainly would not be in their interests to do so.

This present problem is no reason though not to build further extensions. More Metro and rail services are essential in this area in the future as, at the present time, people seem to be going everywhere extremely slowly, not only at commuter times but also busy times at weekends.

We certainly seem to be going nowhere with so many cars on the road. I use both public transport and my own car as there are certain places I could not get to without it. However, on the commute the public transport wins hands down every time, as far as I am concerned.

I drive to a park and ride and sometimes wonder why I bother because most of the time I could have walked there quicker.

I realise it is extremely annoying for commuters in Wolverhampton to find that the Metro work is overrunning by four months. However, it is no-one's fault that there has been a mine shaft to deal with.

M L ROEBUCK, West Bromwich

Road is not Bearwood's high street

MAY I point out that there is no high street in Bearwood. The main thoroughfare in the town is Bearwood Road – as a sign on one of the buildings at the King's Head end clearly states.

I know people have started referring to it as the high street, but it is incorrect and resulted in an ambulance being misdirected when a friend fell on Bearwood Road and broke her hip. The ambulance went to High Street in Smethwick instead. It is only in the last few years that Bearwood Road has been referred to as the high street which infuriates me, having lived in this area for all of my long life and I always correct people.

Perhaps you could give this matter some publicity.

NT CROSBEE, Smethwick

Mess must be stopped

EVERY week in the Chronicle, someone is fined for not cleaning up after their dog. A thoughtless dog owner gets away with it around Castle Road West, Oldbury.

For months now it's been hard walking to avoid stepping in dog mess and today my 82-year-old husband stepped in some and ended up on the floor with both knees and hands bleeding (he was lucky not to have banged his head on a wall).

The dog owner must be very proud of themselves. Why is no-one watching in this area?

Name and address supplied

Hoedown kicks off stomping concert

REVIEW

by Danny Farragher

Transatlantic Sessions Symphony Hall, Birmingham

YOU have to admit that when Jerry Douglas and Aly Bain bring 17 of the best folk and country musicians from both sides of The Pond into the pretty much packed Symphony Hall, Birmingham, you get your money's worth.

The music was superb and included hymns, spirituals, plenty of good 'ol country and a slight smattering of the Celtic tradition.

All seventeen opened with a foot-stomping hoedown just to get everyone warmed up before bringing on the first of the soloists, a sessions regular, Tim O'Brien, who launched into the blue grass You Were On My Mind followed by the bluesy Cowboy's Life.

Sessions veterans Mike McGoldrick and John McCusker on flute and fiddle respectively, started with an old Scottish pipe tune which then segued into a set of wedding reels ably assisted by fellow veteran Phil Cunningham on accordion.

Throw in guitarists John Doyle, Rodney Crowell and Danny Thompson on double bass and the night was worth every penny.

Crossing hope for easing traffic on busy town route

A CROSSING on a major Black Country route is to be improved in a bid to ease congestion. Dudley Council has received £40,000 in funding to create a toucan crossing.

It will be situated on the A458 Colley Gate in Cradley, near its junction with Colley Lane. Bosses are hopeful the change will improve traffic flow heading towards the busy Windmill Hill, as well as making it safer for pedestrians.

by Richard Guttridge

A toucan crossing also gives cyclists a safe passage across the road. Cradley councillor Richard Body described the road, which has a 30mph speed limit, as being 'absolute mayhem' during rush hour. He said there were also plans to restrict access from Burfield Road onto the busy route to help improve traffic flow.

The councillor has long called for improvements on the route and said he was hopeful the new crossing would make a difference.

He said: "At the moment there is a large yellow box. You go over it expecting the road to be clear and there is a bus there which snarls everything up.

"I have been going on about this for a long time.

"It is an absolutely terrible road, it is main road. I don't know many cars use it but it is extremely busy."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the new crossing would mean cars would not be kept waiting 'unnecessarily' at a red light when nobody was waiting to cross, which has been flagged up as a cause of congestion on the route.

He said: "It will be a facility which requires people to push the button for it to turn red. There is not always a need for the lights to be red. It is more user friendly, and more friendly for cyclists."

Gurdev Singh, who runs Windmill Supermarket on Colley Gate, agreed another crossing was needed in the area. He said: "There is always congestion on this road. We always see people trying to cross over there and they are standing there for five or 10 minutes.

"Something needs to be done to help them." Councils in the Black Country have also been tasked with trying to find ways to reduce pollution on the roads.

Trying to find names in the picture

The first team, 1926-7 season, back row is Chad Jackson, and Moon?, front row, Mr Cooper and another Moon

AN appeal has gone out to anyone with links to Wednesbury rugby club, who may be able to help with the identification of players on a picture dating back nearly 90 years.

Jim Cooper, who played for Wednesbury RUFC during the 1960s has found a photograph of players from a team which were around for the 1926-27 season, with his father Jack Cooper third from the left in the front row.

Ron Jenkins, who is part of the backroom staff at the club, contacted the Sandwell Chronicle to ask if any of our readers might be able to help fill in the names of the other players.

Mr Jenkins said: "We are at the moment trying to compile as much information of our past history as is possible and would be grateful of any help with this.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Animations from local artists due

A SPECIAL event will be held in partnership with a cerebral palsy charity.

The Cerebral Palsy West Midlands Charity event, called The Birds Wedding Day, will take place in Edgbaston at St Augustine's Church, Lyttelton Road, on Sunday and Saturday between 11am and 5pm..

On the Sunday there will be regular film showings of the animations created by artists from Cerebral Palsy Midlands, as well as an illustrated talk about the life of Rosslyn Bruce.

Dr Tom Jones, Chair of Edgbaston Arts Contact Group, said: "The Birds Wedding Day is a light-hearted, spring-time celebration of individuality, diversity and community."

For more information telephone 0121 427 3182 or email info@cpmids.org.uk

Tyre fitting firm plans unveiled

PLANS have been unveiled to convert a Smethwick industrial unit into a tyre fitting business.

Applicant Khan Khalsa has applied to Sandwell Council for permission to turn Premier House, in Rolfe Street, into the new business, which will provide three car and van bays for the purpose of tyre changing and fitting.

The industrial premise, close to the junction with Northern Western Road, offers 7,543sq ft of showroom and industrial space, 574sq ft of office space and an external store of 239sq ft.

Contractor collapse sees more than 50 jobs axed

MORE than 50 workers have lost their jobs after a building contractor in West Bromwich went into administration.

Directors at Anglo Holt Construction Limited, in Birmingham Road, took the action after the firm suffered cashflow difficulties caused by substantial contract losses over the last 18 months.

And it was announced 52 of the company's 67 employees had been made redundant.

The remaining 15 members of staff have been retained to assist administrators and to see if any value can be generated from Anglo Holt's contract base. Joint administrators Guy Mander and Diana Frangou, of Baker Tilly, have been appointed joint administrators of the firm.

They said the staff who had lost their jobs were now being assisted in making claims from the Redundancy Payments Offices.

Officials said the company's cashflow problems led to a working capital shortfall and resulted in an inability to meet supplier and sub-contractor payments.

Management took steps to suspend work on eight live contracts. Guy Mander, a restructuring and recovery partner at Baker Tilly, said: "The cashflow issues were such that the directors had little choice but to place the company in administration.

"Regrettably we have had to make 52 staff redundant.

"Our specialist employee team has been assisting them both with making their claims from the Redundancy Payments Office and offering general support and advice."

The company was founded in 1971 and specialised in the design, construction and development of industrial and commercial buildings.

Anglo Holt, which is based in Birmingham Road, West Bromwich

Moves on libraries welcome

THE leader of Sandwell Council has welcomed moves to ensure the borough's libraries remain open.

At a meeting of the authority's cabinet last week, Councillor Darren Cooper said libraries were very important to local people.

In total, five libraries which were at risk of closure as part of cost-cutting plans have been saved from the axe.

Councillor Cooper, said: "I have tried very very hard to protect front line services against the very very difficult budget that we face. Libraries are very important to local people."

Sandwell Council has ruled out shutting the sites at Hill Top, West Bromwich; Oakham, Tividale and Langley, Brandhall and Rounds Green, all Oldbury. But some could move to share buildings with other services while extra volunteers could also be recruited to help run them.

Libraries could also start selling school text books in a bid to raise extra cash to keep service levels.

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Signature.....

Brindleyplace in history for Brum, 20 years on

A CANALSIDE business and leisure complex which brings more than four million visitors to Birmingham every year is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Brindleyplace is recognised as one of the city's most influential regeneration projects with over 10,000 people working on the estate.

And to celebrate the anniversary, people who have lived in, worked at or visited Brindleyplace over the past two decades are now being asked to share their memories and stories of the development.

It is hoped stories will range from people getting engaged at one of the area's pubs and restaurants, getting their dream job or even taking part in community events held there.

The site was originally occupied by factories at the height of Birmingham's industrial period but lay derelict for many years following the decline of the country's manufacturing industry.

In July 1992, planning permission was first granted for a new business and leisure destination to be created.

But the history of Brindleyplace goes back further to 1987 when Birmingham City Council invited developers to draw up a blueprint for the 26 acres of land near to the International Convention Centre.

Outline planning permission was given in July 1992 allowing the development to be created in phases.

But the project hit another early bump when ecologists discovered the site was home to the very rare Black Redstart bird. In June 1993, Argent Group Plc purchased Brindleyplace for an undisclosed sum.

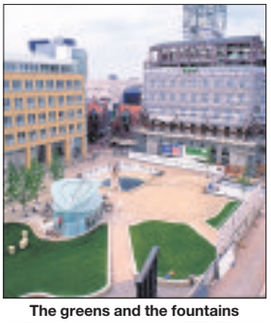
Workmen finally moved on to the site on September 6 1993 and the building project itself was launched on September 29 1993. The first part of the development to be completed was The Water's Edge – a canalside scheme of shops, restaurants and bars.

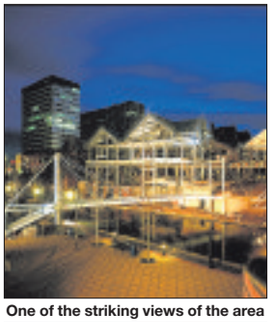
One Brindleyplace, a five-storey office building was opened in 1995.

Phases of work would continue at the development until 2009 with the completion and opening of 11 Brindleyplace.

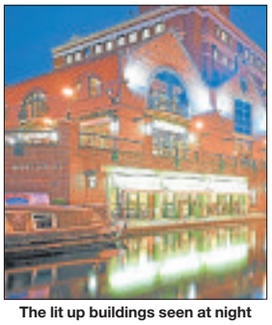
People can share their memories by e-mailing alison.mckenna@brindleyplace.com by February 27.

Alternatively people can get in touch on Twitter, via @Brindleyplace using #BpMoments, or via Facebook.


The greens and the fountains


One of the striking views of the area

Construction staff seen at work


The lit up buildings seen at night

Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

Do you have a good news story?

Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?

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High hopes for tower blocks revamp

Site Manager Glenn Williams, left, looking over plans with Steel Erector and Cladder Joe Lawlor at the refurbishment of flats in Windmill Lane, Smethwick as part of an £11m project to improve 250 homes

IT'S not a view of the Black Country everyone can get but for the engineers revamping high-rise homes seeing the region from nearly 200ft up is a daily occurrence.

The 100-strong team of workers need a head for heights while helping modernise three landmarks on the Smethwick skyline.

Workers are in the middle of a multi-million pound project renovating the apartment blocks at The Crofts off Windmill Lane.

Huge platforms will be seen working their way up and down the sides of the blocks – Ashcroft, Elmcroft and Birchcroft – in the coming months.

It is part of a £11 million project to improve more than 250 homes in the three buildings. Joint site manager John O'Leary said: "It is a bit daunting at first when you go up there and look down, especially the first few times.

"But everyone is experienced at their jobs and has been trained and you soon get used to it."

Construction workers will be using the platforms to replace exterior windows on the three tower blocks.

Outside cladding is also being replaced and the balconies revamped at the high-rise blocks which have 270 flats.

There will also be work to improve insulation for the homes with the aim of reducing residents' heating bills.

Another major part of the scheme involves creating pitched roofs on each of the 15-storey buildings taking their heights up to nearly 200ft. It installation involves building steel structures to support the roofs which will in turn create extra extra living space.

Inside the tower blocks, communal living areas will be rewired and given a face lift for the residents to enjoy.

There will also be extra car parking spaces created and improved CCTV installed throughout the site.

Mr O'Leary says people living at the blocks have been welcoming to the workers who have laid events including Christmas parties to foster community spirit.

"They have been fantastic and we are getting on well," he said.

It is hoped the work on the tower blocks will be completed sometime next year.

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Schools urged to take off with project

Elinor Eustace, Andy Lyndon, Councillor Karen McCarthy and Dr Chris Chiswell with some of the 100 owls

THE deadline is approaching for schools to take part in an arts event in Birmingham transforming the city centre into a virtual aviary.

More than 100 5ft high owl statues will be placed across the city next summer helping to showcase the cultural side to Birmingham.

Presented by public art specialists, Wild in Art, the project, which is called The Big Hoot has been set up in partnership with Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The scheme hopes to raise £500,000 for the hospital with companies also being urged to sign up to sponsor the art sculptures.

Schools can also take part in the project with teachers able to sign up their pupils to help design and decorate a 90cm 'owlet' sculptures.

Mammals

The schools programme is designed to fit into existing school curriculums by covering subjects including art and design, the study of birds, mammals and reptiles.

Wild in Art's education and community manager, Ben Reed, said: "Creativity plays a vital role in education and it is hoped that this project will inspire young people to become interested in art and culture from a young age.

"It is a great opportunity for them to work creatively and showcase their achievements." Visit www.thebighoot.co.uk for more details.

Team on streets to tackle problem of young drinkers

A SPECIAL team of council officials, police and other partners took to the streets of Tipton to help raise awareness of young people's alcohol misuse.

Tipton's Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) team went out onto the streets of Great Bridge and Princes End to talk to local traders, residents and young people out and about in the area.

The walkabout team included the CAP project manager Lydia Smyth, council trading standards, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood services officers and police officers. There were also representatives from young people's services, DECCA (Drug Education, Counselling and Confidential Advice service for young people), Swanswell and traders.

The evening involved young people near Jubilee Park being spoken to and making them aware of activities that will be taking place at the youth centre.

Local traders were spoken to, increasing their confidence in reporting their concerns about underage drinkers to local services and ensuring them their concerns are listened to and acted upon.

Cabinet member and deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain, said: "This was very worthwhile partnership working on a very important issue. The team spoke to a number of young people about issues affecting them, and gave warnings and advice to anyone suspected of underage drinking or anti-social behaviour."

A group of adult street drinkers were advised on where to go for support in reducing their alcohol misuse. As a result of intelligence gathered on the night, trading standards were able to confiscate a number of illegal tobacco products from one local premises.

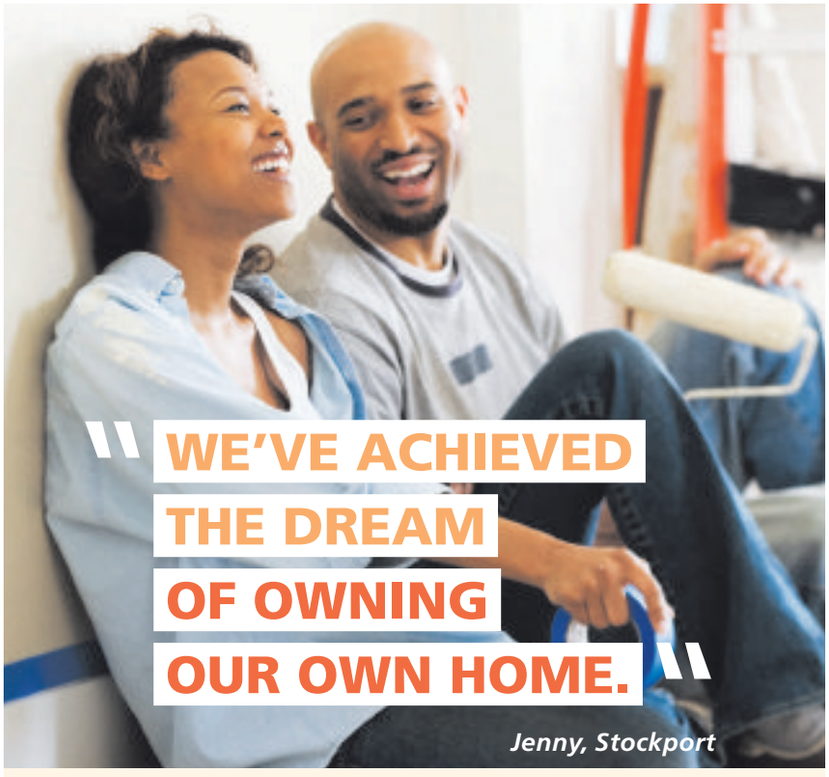
£3m extra to help city homeless

THREE homeless centres in Birmingham will be given a £3million revamp.

The 12-month programme of work will include replacing kitchens and bathrooms, upgrading boilers and decorating rooms.

The centres in Bournville, Nechells and Acocks Green provide emergency accommodation for almost 150 households in crisis, many of whom are fleeing from domestic violence or fires. The centres are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year ensuring families are supported before moving on to live independently.

Birmingham City Council's cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor John Cotton, said: "This programme of work is essential if we are to make sure that the most vulnerable in our city are looked after properly when they are faced with a crisis situation. It also means that we can avoid the use of expensive and unsuitable bed and breakfasts."



With Right to Buy, becoming the proud owner of your home could be more realistic than you think.

With bigger Right to Buy discounts of up to £77,000 (£102,700 in London) now could be the right time to look into the costs of owning your home and decide if it's the right choice for you.

To find out if you're eligible for a discount, the costs involved and whether you can afford to buy, visit the Right to Buy website or call one of our Advisers:

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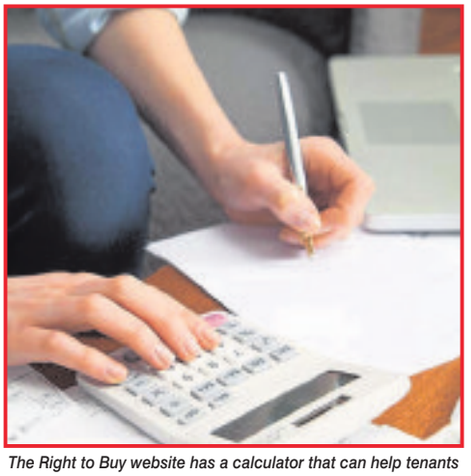

The Right to Buy website has a calculator that can help tenants

Tenants with the purchasing rights

Right to Buy is the scheme that helps eligible council and housing association tenants buy their home by offering a discount on the purchase price.

Since the scheme was refreshed in April 2012 the discounts have increased. Currently, eligible tenants can get up to 70 per cent off the cost of their house or flat up to a maximum cash discount of £77,000 in England, and £102,700 if you live in London. Each year these discounts will increase by the rate of inflation.

Since 2012 nearly 30,000 people in England have become homeowners through the Right to Buy scheme.

Could this be the right time for you – or somebody you know – to join them?

Receipts from additional Right to Buy sales go into building new affordable housing.

Who qualifies for the Right to Buy?

Tenants are likely to be eligible to buy their current home if they can answer 'yes' to the following questions:

- Are you currently a council tenant, or were you living in your home when the council transferred it to another landlord (housing association)?
- Have you been a council or housing association tenant for five years or more?
- Can you confirm that you do not live in sheltered housing or other housing designed for elderly or disabled people?

In addition, tenants need to be free from legal problems with debt or outstanding possession orders, and their home isn't due to be demolished.

If you don't qualify at the moment, keep an eye on news about Right to Buy as the Government is hoping to make further changes to eligibility later this year.

How much does it cost?

Home ownership brings many benefits such as freedom to make changes, a sense of pride and an investment for the future. But it is not the right choice for everyone and one of the biggest questions to answer is 'Can I afford it?'

When you buy a home you need to budget for both one-off costs and ongoing costs. And you need to allow for your finances to change in the future.

The one-off costs could include stamp duty, professional fees for a survey, conveyancing and other legal costs.

The ongoing costs include mortgage or loan repayments, repairs and maintenance. If the property is leasehold (usually a flat) there will be an annual service charge and ground rent.

There is plenty of guidance available on righttobuy.communities.gov.uk/ to help you add up what this means for you.

Working out your budget

There is an easy-to-use calculator on the Right to Buy website to help you work out what discount you could get and if you can afford to buy.

The Money Advice Service offers free, impartial advice on budgeting, mortgages and other financial matters. You can contact them on 0300 500 5000 or go to their website at www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk.

The Government's Right to Buy Agent service can also help you throughout the Right to Buy process from applying to completing. The advisers can provide information on finding a mortgage, appointing a solicitor and arranging a survey.

If you are midway through buying and have a problem, get in touch with the agent service and they can advise you.

The advisers are available from Monday to Friday, 8am until 6pm. You can phone them on 0300 123 0913.

What to do next

If you decide that home ownership is the right choice for you, and you want to find out more about Right to Buy, have a look at our website. If you decide to go ahead you will need to fill in the application form and take the process forward with your landlord.

Nick lacing up his trainers for big race

Nick Trueman, who is in training for the London Marathon

A keen runner will tackle his first and one of the biggest marathons in the world in April. Nick Trueman from Heath Hayes is taking part in the London Marathon.

It will be the first time he has tackled a full marathon after completing the Birmingham Half Marathon in a respectable time of one hour 51 minutes last October. The 37-year-old who works for the West Bromwich Building Society as a PR manager is using his marathon mission to raise funds for Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgely.

So far he has raised £175 in sponsorship from family, friends and work colleagues and hopes to reach £1,500 in support of the sight loss charity which helps people who are visually impaired in the West Midlands live fuller and more independent lives. To sponsor him go to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NickTrueman

Tickets on sale for play

TICKETS are available for a theatre group's latest stage play in the Black Country. All Saints Players will be showcasing their version of of the comedy I'll Get My Man in May. The play is set in a typical village vicarage in the 1960s.It is staged from May 5 to 8 at All Saints Church, off All Saints Way, West Bromwich. Performances start at 7.30pm with tickets costing between £4 and £4.50. Refreshments will be available and the play is suitable for over 12s. Call Kath on 0121 588 4786 for tickets.

Metro users hit by work delays told 'go on foot'

MIDLAND Metro users facing delays due to long-running engineering work are being handed leaflets about the benefits of walking to the station.

The leaflets and free pedometers for people to monitor their steps are being handed out by transport authority Centro at Metro stops including Wednesbury Parkway.

By Daniel Wainwright

Centro has stressed the pedometers and leaflets are being handed out as part of a 'health travel' scheme and are nothing to do with overrunning work.

But the scheme was branded a 'cheek' as it has been launched at the same time that Metro users are having to use replacement bus services or walk the extra distance from Wolverhampton's Royal stop, as the trams are unable to get all the way to St George's in the city centre.

A £4.5 million upgrade was meant to have been completed at the end of November 2014 but is dragging on until March after an abandoned mine shaft was discovered.

Commuter Antony Ellis, aged 31, from Wednesbury was unimpressed after being handed a pedometer and a leaflet.

He said: "The timing for this is a bit of a cheek given that many people are not getting the full service they are paying for. The trams broke down a lot over Christmas and for many people there was no choice but to walk."

Passenger Pat Archer said she was handed a leaflet on cycling and one on walking.

She said: "There were two people without uniforms dishing them out at Parkway. One said to me 'have a free pedometer see how many calories you're using'."

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Advice on younger sufferers at library

AN INFORMATION day will be held by the Stroke Association next month for child sufferers of the condition.

Staff, health specialists and parents of childhood stroke survivors will be on hand at the event on March 7 at Birmingham Library to offer free advice.

Anna Panton, child stroke project manager at the Stroke Association, said: "Many people think strokes only happen to older people, so a stroke in a baby or child can come as a big shock.

"In fact, around 400 childhood strokes occur in the UK each year – that's more than one a day.

"Families often don't know where to turn for information and support.

"The day is being supported by the Childhood Stroke Project a collaboration between the Stroke Association and Evelina London Children's Hospital, funded by an ICAP Charity Day.

"The Childhood Stroke Project offers information, advice and support for children, young people and families affected by stroke in childhood."

For more information about the Childhood Stroke Parent Support and Information Day, call 07715 065 925.

Alternatively email anna.panton@stroke.org.uk or visit www.stroke.org.uk/about/childhood-stroke#events

New picture of impressive West Brom HQ

The interior of the striking new headquarters of the West Brom, which is now taking shape at Providence Place

THE staircases are up and interior walls in place – soon this building will become a hive of activity housing one of West Bromwich's biggest employers.

The striking new headquarters of the West Brom are taking shape at Providence Place, which the firm hopes will become a landmark in its prominent position, with its distinctive terracotta and black wall tiles.

Construction is on track for completion in late spring. The aim with the new building is to create a light and airy space, in sharp contrast to the company's current purpose built headquarters on the high street.

The five-storey building also has a glass skylight at the very top, emphasising the use of natural light in the building.

Chris Behan, group property manager, said: "It is rewarding for everyone working on the project to see how our new head office is progressing. You can already get a real sense of what an amazing building it will be."

Have say on future of health services

HEALTH bosses proposing to create two specialist units at Sandwell General Hospital are launching a public consultation.

The plan by Sandwell Clinical Commissioning Group is to bring emergency surgery and trauma assessment services together at the hospital. The group is also proposing to bring together urgent cardiology services at City Hospital.

Officials say this would happen from spring this year. The move is part of a wider programme by the health and social care organisations in the borough.

It comes as health bosses build towards opening the new Midland Met Hospital in Smethwick by 2018.

West Bromwich Town Hall hosts an event at 1pm on February 23 and another event will be held at the Medical Education Centre Sandwell Hospital starting at 6pm.

Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG chairman, Dr Nick Harding, said: "We're confident these improvements will deliver better care for patients, with timely access to treatment and skilled care from specialist teams.

"I'd encourage everyone in Sandwell and west Birmingham to get involved and make sure their voice is heard, either at one of the events or by filling in an online survey. We want to hear the views from existing and future patients on our proposals."

Tesco is back on track despite store closures

TESCO is growing again for the first time in a year, but all the big supermarkets continue to lose customers to discount chains Lidl and Aldi, new figures reveal.

While the latest research provides some good cheer for Tesco, sales are up just 0.3 per cent compared to the same time a year ago.

Tesco had a tough year in 2014, with falling sales, a £263 million black hole in its accounts and a string of official investigations. It has also announced a string of closures, including two stores in Smethwick.

CEO Dave Lewis will be pleased to see the supermarket has attracted an additional 236,000 shoppers into its stores in the last 12 weeks, according to retail experts Kantar. But this increase in sales hasn't had an impact on Tesco's overall market share, which fell by 0.2 percentage points compared to last year, to 29 per cent.

It is still far and away the biggest grocer in the UK, however, with nearly twice as big a slice of the market as its nearest rival. Asda has overtaken Sainsbury's to reclaim second place behind Tesco with 16.9 per cent of the market. But both have seen sales fall, Asda by 1.7 per cent and Sainsbury's by one per cent.

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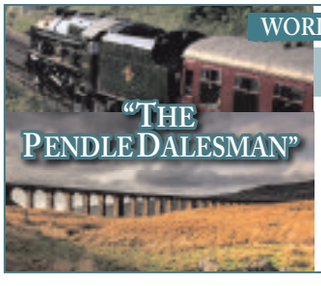

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£600m masterplan for city's business district

Artist's impression of Great Charles Street as it will look following the £600m Snow Hill Masterplan

A £600 million masterplan could turn Birmingham into a financial centre to rival London, Frankfurt or Zurich, creating 10,000 new jobs and providing a massive boost to the local economy.

The scheme is to transform the Snow Hill and Colmore business districts over the next 20 years to win investment from global business, professional and financial services firms.

Birmingham's aim is to repeat the huge success of London's Canary Wharf and pull in more firms to add to its growing list of investors, which already includes property services group DTZ, Deutsche Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and multinational law firm Hogan Lovells.

The 20-year Snow Hill Masterplan has been launched by Birmingham City Council and Colmore Business District (CBD). As well as creating 10,000 new jobs, it aims to generate more than 200,000 sq m of new office space, and boost the local economy by over £600 million each year.

It builds on the £600m transformation of New Street station while redeveloping Snow Hill station will include new commercial buildings replacing its multi-storey car park.

Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "Birmingham is putting in place the building blocks for a global business and financial centre. The Snow Hill Masterplan provides a bold and exciting proposal for how Birmingham can continue to grow its thriving business and professional services sector. With time, we want the city to replicate the success of Canary Wharf."

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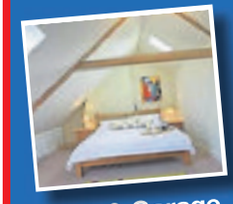
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Neurological help group on the road

Members of the Black Country Neurological Alliance which is staging a roadshow in Oldbury on February 24

A SUPPORT group for people affected by a neurological condition is staging a roadshow which will be arriving in Sandwell later this month.

The Black Country Neurological Alliance stages the Sandwell Neuro Roadshow at the Salvation Army Community Church, in Oldbury on Tuesday February 24, from 4-7pm. Speakers will be from Myaware, Parkinson's UK and Sandwell Icares, and there are refreshments available.

Spokesperson Peter Cornell states: "Our aim is to promote a better understanding of neurological conditions through the provision of information, by signposting to support services and influencing local decision makers in order to increase the opportunities for individuals to make informed choices that will enhance their quality of life."

Email bookings@bcneural.org.uk, or call Stephen or Wendy 0121 422 9296. Check out www.bcneural.org.uk

Railway station boost

AN extra 360 car parking spaces have opened at Rowley Regis railway station with the completion of a £1.1 million expansion scheme.

Centro has almost doubled the size the park and ride site at Rowley Regis.

It's hoped the additional spaces will help to ease overcrowding at the busy station. There had been a shortage of spaces as the old car park had often been full before the end of the morning rush hour.

The work has also seen the installation of a cycle hub with capacity for the secure storage of up to 30 bikes.

Councillor Roger Horton from Centro said: "Park and Ride has been such a success that the car parks fill up very quickly, which is why we have carried out these works. But this work has not just been about extra car park spaces, the Cycle Hub scheme is an excellent facility for cyclists using the station."

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, said: "This is very good news for commuters.

"Rowley Regis is an extremely busy station and these extra spaces are going to make a huge difference. The cycle hub is also a very innovative idea which should encourage more people to consider cycling to the station."

Black Country Neurological Alliance

Sandwell Neuro Roadshow

Tuesday 24th February 2015

4:00pm - 7:00pm

the black country neurological alliance

Black Country Neurological Alliance is a partnership between service users and carers, neurological organisations and commissioners from across the Black Country.

We invite you along with friends and colleagues to join us at our Neuro Roadshow in Sandwell to find out about local services and support available in the Sandwell area.

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CHIP WEEK

Chamberlains Quality Fish & Chips

A Fish and Chip Shop/Restaurant on the Birmingham and Sandwell border who won the Midlands Choice Chip Award 2014 is hoping to make it two years in a row to win again this February.

The Choice Chip Awards are organised by the Potato Council as part of National Chip Week which runs from 16th -22nd February to celebrate the Great British Chip!

Simon Shaw, co owner at Chamberlains said "we have already received 1000's of votes from our customers but with over 10,500 fish & chip shops in the UK there is a lot of competition"

If Chamberlains wins the Choice Chips it will be two awards in 3 months as the family business was crowned Best Takeaway in November at the 2014 England & Wales Food Awards.

When asked what makes Chamberlains stand out from the rest Simon added "It's a number of things firstly we only use the best quality produce with up to 10 types of fish and seafood available every day, secondly we cook all our food fresh to order and we have a highly trained team committed in serving the best fish and chips in the area. We offer customers choice of traditional beef dripping or vegetable oil, we even serve Gluten free fish & chips or cooked in our light and crispy batter for a taste of the seaside"

During National Chip Week Chamberlains will be giving away Free Chips with every Fish bought in the takeaway (Monday-Thursday) and in the restaurant kids meals will be just £1 all week.

The Chamberlains Cod Meal and all the trimmings!

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Injured badger is found outside court

AN injured badger was rescued by police after being spotted outside a court building.

The animal was discovered outside Sandwell Magistrates' Court in Oldbury last week.

PCSO Kate Heatley from the Bristnall police team in Oldbury went to the badger's aid.

She stayed with the animal outside in the court until the RSPCA arrived at around 9.30am. The badger had injured legs and was taken away for treatment by officers.

Staff at the court said when they arrived at work on Friday morning the badger was sat outside the front door of the building.

They called the RSPCA for help as they could see the animal was in pain due to its injuries. It's not known where the badger had come from although one has been seen near the court in the past, staff said.

The netball players from George Salter Academy who are now going through to the national finals

Girls' net gain as they head to national finals

NETBALL teams at a West Bromwich school held their own with some of the best in the region during a competition recently to find players ready for the national stage.

George Salter Academy represented South Staffordshire County at the West Midlands Regional Schools Tournament, held at Bromsgrove School, with best 14 schools from across the region fighting for their place in the national finals. The academy qualified in both the U-14 and U-16 age groups.

Both squads went from strength to strength in their group stages with convincing wins against St Joseph's College, Hereford, King Edwards and Royal Grammar School at Worcester among others.

After excellent results in the group stages both teams qualified for the semi-finals; the U-14s team faced Higham Lane whilst the U-16s came up against Bromsgrove. Eventually both teams triumphed and there were smiles hugs and tears – a truly incredible moment for the girls, parents, coaches and the school.

A spokesman said: "This is a fantastic achievement for the academy to get to two age groups into the national finals; an accolade very few schools in the country hold. We wish all the girls success in the finals in March."

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A number of concerns highlighted in borough

FROM fly-tipping and littering to problem parking – action is being taken to tackle a range of issues affecting communities across Sandwell.

Residents were asked to prioritise the issues which most concerned them by completing a questionnaire. They ranged from anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, litter and parking issues to empty properties.

by Heather Large

Other highlighted areas of concern include reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training and working more closely with older people. Now Sandwell Council has drawn up a series of ward pledges detailing how these areas will be tackled during the coming months.

Further sessions will then take place during the summer when residents will receive updates on the work carried out across the borough.

The council will be working alongside other organisations as well as ward councillors.

Councillor Mahboob Hussain, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, said: "We are having to make huge cuts in the funding we have available as a council but we want to make sure that we are listening to residents and taking action about the issues that matter to them and that we are accountable.

"I would like to thank everyone who attended the initial meetings and fed back to us.

"Now we have identified the issues which are important to local people in each ward, the council, its partners and ward councillors will work with local residents to deliver the pledges.

"We will be looking to report back on the progress made during the summer."

The first in the series of meetings takes place for the Oldbury ward on February 24 at Sandwell Council House. There will be a meeting in Rowley Regis on February 24 at Brickhouse Primary School.

The Smethwick area meetings start on February 24 with St Pauls at West Smethwick Park Pavilion.

The Tipton Green meeting is on February 23 at St Paul's Community Centre and the Great Bridge one is on February 24 at Great Bridge Primary School.

The West Bromwich Central meeting is on February 24 at West Bromwich Town Hall.

Residents in Newton can attend Tanhouse Community Centre on February 26.

Residents can find out details of the other meetings, taking place throughout March, by visiting www.sandwell.gov.uk/neighbourhoodevents or calling 0121 569 6000.

Praise for work of gritters out on roads

GRITTING teams in Sandwell have been out more than 40 times this winter. Sandwell Council praised the work carried out by crews in keeping roads around the borough clear. Officials said they had been out 45 times so far this year. By comparison, in the winter of 2012/13 gritting teams completed 112 runs covering 33,600 miles and spreading 8,200 tons of salt.

Last year was milder and the crews went out 43 times.

Councillor Maria Crompton, cabinet member for highways and environment on the council, said: "We will continue to grit the roads for as long as necessary.

"We have a very good record on gritting and it is good to know that the teams are ready to go out as soon as they are alerted about predictions of snow and ice."

Residents can find out when the gritters are out and get updates about school closures when it snows by liking the Sandwell Facebook page or following @sandwellcouncil on Twitter.

Hours to be cut and jobs lost at £189 million library

OPENING hours will be cut and staff numbers halved at the £189 million Library of Birmingham as part of cutbacks less than two years after it opened.

The stunning library, standing in Centenary Square near the ICC and Symphony Hall, is the latest to bare the brunt of cuts in the city. Birmingham City Council says it has no option but to look at cutbacks at the flagship library, which opened its doors 18 months ago.

At least 90 people are expected to lose their jobs from a workforce of 188 based at the library, which houses a renowned William Shakespeare collection.

It was officially opened by teenager Malala Yousafzai in September 2013 who survived being shot by the Taliban and now lives in the city. But now officials at Birmingham City Council say the opening hours would be slashed from 73 hours to 40 hours a week to make savings.

The council said it must cut nearly £113m from its 2015/16 budget – but this is down from original estimates of £116.7m for the next financial year.

Council leader Sir Albert Bore said it was the 'end of local government as we know it'.

He said: "We always aim to put residents first and offer excellent services – and the efforts we are making at a council level are making a positive difference, but each year this is more and more difficult."

The new Birmingham Library seen just before its completion in Centenary Square

The name game is on for health staff

A SENIOR nurse has called on hospital staff to make an effort to tell patients their names as part of a national campaign. Colin Ovington, who is chief nurse at Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust, has urged doctors, nurses and other hospital staff to introduce themselves to patients to make them more comfortable, as part of the Hello, My Name Is... campaign.

The campaign was started by Dr Kate Granger, a registrar from Yorkshire, who has terminal cancer and became frustrated with staff who failed to introduce themselves when she spent time in hospital.

Mr Ovington said: "The campaign has helped staff at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust remember how important it is for each patient to know they are cared for as individuals.

"I believe every single member of staff has a part to play, whether working in clinical care or coming into contact with patients and visitors as they walk around our hospital sites."

Promising runner gets jail after robberies

A PROMISING teenage athlete has been jailed for four years following a string of gunpoint robberies on parkland close to where he trained.

Abdi Abdi was a runner for the Birchfield Harriers athletics club which has also been the home club of heptathlon star Denise Lewis. He trained at the Alexander Stadium near Great Barr.

But after training sessions he used his knowledge of the BMX track in neighbouring Perry Park to target young people for their mobile phones and expensive bikes.

By Andrew Turton

The 19-year-old from Aston picked on young boys, some as old as 15, engaging them in conversation, police said.

But Abdi would then point a gas powered handgun at them, forcing the youngsters to hand over their belongings.

Conversation

However, as Abdi cycled through the park, on June 23, three teenagers recognised the BMX as one stolen a week earlier.

One of the group also recognised Abdi as he had been threatened by him earlier that month, according to officers.

Fortunately he had managed to get away from Abdi and two accomplices and on this occasion nothing was stolen. The friends alerted police and then started up a conversation with Abdi, who tried to sell the bike to them.

As he rode away the boys followed him along the canal. Police were able to stop Abdi and he was arrested.

Investigating officer Dc Laurence Green said: "A search of Abdi's back pack revealed the handgun, although he said that he had found it in bushes and was intending to hand it in to police.

"He further maintained that he had bought the BMX bike from a man in Alum Rock for £50 and had no knowledge that it was stolen.

"The lads were aware of the number of robberies happening in the area involving a firearm and the warnings being issued by police to visitors in the park, yet they bravely chased after the offender."

Abdi was charged with six robberies between April and June, with almost £3,000 worth of property stolen, however he continued to maintain his innocence and stood trial at Birmingham Crown Court in December.

Abdi was sentenced at the same court on Friday.

Unit given 'centre of excellence' tag

A HOSPITAL unit specialising in the immune system disorder Lupus has been named as a 'centre of excellence'.

The charity Lupus UK has praised facilities at City Hospital in Winson Green, Birmingham.

Lupus is a debilitating disorder of the immune system known as an autoimmune disease.

Patients with lupus typically experience their immune system turning against parts of the body it is designed to protect, leading to inflammation and damage to various body tissues.

Active

Currently there is no cure for lupus, however effective treatments can ensure people with the disease can lead active, healthy lives.

Vice chairman of Lupus UK, Yvonne Norton, said: "I continue to be most impressed by the work taking place to help Lupus patients at City Hospital and by the caring attitude shown by all members of the Lupus team."

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Car thief drives into bus stop

A man has admitted stealing a friend's car and crashing it into a bus shelter, causing a combined bill for the damage of £10,000.

At Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court, Wayne Bennett, aged 31, from Parkes Lane, Tipton, pleaded guilty to stealing the Vauxhall Vectra and driving it without a licence and insurance .

The incident happened in Wolverhampton on September 6 last year.

Roger Bleazard, prosecuting, said a woman got in the car alongside Bennett and tried to grab the steering wheel to 'prevent him driving erratically' but her efforts came to no avail when he hit the bus stop.

Bennett caused £8,778 of damage to the bus shelter and wrote off the Vauxhall, valued at about £1,800.

He will be sentenced on March 2.

High rating for society

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society scored highly in its annual branch customer service survey.

When asked to score the quality of service offered by the Tipton, 97 per cent of respondents rated it excellent or very good with 97 per cent of members saying they would recommend the society to a friend.

Members who completed the survey were entered into a draw for an iPad with Graham Williams from Coseley the winner.

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Tragedy of diseased horse left to die on council land

A HORSE died after being abandoned in a severely diseased and malnourished state on grassland. The animal was discovered near The Cracker in Tipton.

Sandwell Council was called and officers believe the horse had been deliberately led to the land and left alone with no food, water or shelter. Councillor Ian Jones, said the horse was not micro-chipped.

The cabinet member for jobs and economy explained that without the chipping it was impossible to trace the owner.

He added: "This was a dreadful case of animal cruelty.

"Not only was the horse left for dead but it was left for us as a council to remove.

Reminded

"This is a real problem and I want to remind horse owners that they must microchip their animals and take proper responsibility for them.

"When officers visited council land to inspect tethered horses they found nearly all were not micro-chipped."

The council has reminded horse owners that animals with ringworm should be treated as highly-contagious to people and strict isolation procedures should have been adhered to.

by Dominic Bareham

Management involves treating the active infection and reducing the spore formation and elimination of infective spores in the environment.

The council is also reminding owners that they need a horse passport. which have been issued since July 2009, and they must contain a microchip number showing its registration.

A passport is needed for each animal and lasts the animal's lifetime.

Borough horse owners face fines of up to £5,000 if they can't show a valid horse passport for an animal in their care.

Mr Jones added: "I also want to remind members of the public they should not approach any tethered horses as they could inadvertently startle the horse which might then kick out at them."

Jim Pease Museums Motor Vehicle Engineer with a1911 6-ton Steam Roller

Nelly the engine rolls back home

A STEAMROLLER used for levelling the Black Country's roads a century ago has returned home.

The six-ton road roller has been loaned to the Black Country Living Museum by owner Carol Colvin, who lives in Northamptonshire.

Following the death of her husband Douglas – who affectionately named it 'Nelly' – she decided a loan to the museum in Dudley was what he would have wanted.

"It was his pride and joy," she said. "My husband always had a passion for steam, and when he saw it he fell in love. We spent many hours talking over whether to buy it. We couldn't come to a decision, so in the end we flipped a coin and that was it."

The steamroller dates back to 1911 and was once the property of Tipton Council. The now defunct authority bought it with a £438 bank loan, around £50,000 in today's money.

Transport plans back in pipeline

LONG-AWAITED plans for tram lines and light rail services connecting the Black Country's key towns with each other and Birmingham have been revived.

The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority has given the nod to the proposals, which include a review of a long-stalled scheme for a second Midland Metro line to connect the Merry Hill Centre with Wednesbury along the old Stourbridge freight line. It follows renewed interest in a line linking Wolverhampton rail station with the city's New Cross hospital.

Options include 'very light rail' similar to the £20 million plan to link Dudley Port station in Tipton to the site of Dudley's former station at the bottom of Castle Hill, close to Dudley Zoo, Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Tree of Light cash handout

THOUSANDS of pounds raised by residents in a Black Country town will be handed over to good causes during a night of celebration.

The Tree of Light, a Christmas tradition in Tipton for more than 20 years, has raised more than £6,000, a record.

Representatives of charities and hospitals will accept donations at St Paul and St Martin's Church, Owen Street on February 17.

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To this day, Paul insists that the success of EPC was built upon the concept that the customer

is always at the heart of the business. As such, he encourages his customers to draw a fine line between borrowing and saving by implementing his products with reasonable weekly payments, and training his agents to spend time with their customers to understand their personal goals and educate them in regards to intelligent borrowing and planning ahead.

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Some of the Butler's FC players are seen with their cup winner's shields

Pete Edwards in his Albion hat joins in with the singing

Action from the final of the Express & Star's six-a-side cup from back in 1954

Loyalty stretched far beyond our side when Baggies won the cup

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

ALTHOUGH I was born a Villa fan, Our Dad always instilled into us the importance of supporting the Midland teams if the Villa were knocked out of any cup-run.

As the later 1960s was the bleakest of times for the fortunes of the Villa, that meant that each season we were having to back another Midland side, in the FA Cup especially.

In 1969 it was Leicester City who had our backing, although they lost against Manchester City in the final; but the year before it was West Bromwich Albion in their 1-0 victory over Everton to win the trophy.

Our Dad was even more delighted that it was a local team, a West Midlands club, that had won. In fact he was so chuffed that he took me and our Kid, Darryl, up town to cheer on the victorious Albion players when they arrived at New Street station in Birmingham on Sunday, May 19, the day after the match. There were several thousand of us around there but that was just the start of the celebrations as The Times reckoned that 'about 250,000 Midlanders turned out' to watch West Bromwich Albion 'return in triumph with the Football Association Cup'.

From New Street, a 10-mile route was taken to West Bromwich and so great were the crowds along the way that they 'repeatedly broke through police cordons.

Outside West Bromwich Town Hall, an estimated 10,000 Albion fans were packed in, 30 deep, on either side of the road and behind police lines. Many of them were 'perched in trees, on rooftops, and chimneys 40 feet up'.

When Graham Williams, the captain, emerged on the dais outside the Town Hall and held aloft the trophy, the crowd waved and cheered. The cheering swelled as each player came out to hold the cup, but the biggest acclaim of all was for Jeff Astle, the centre-forward who had scored the only goal in the game.

Reg Clare also has a story relating to West Bromwich Albion. A while ago he and his wife spent the New Year at Blackpool. He says: "We had a fantastic time.

"The hotel was owned and run by a man from Tipton. All the residents were from the Midlands, and a lot of them were West Bromwich Albion supporters. A question came up: 'How did they get the nickname the Baggies?'.

"Years ago I had heard that when they entered the league, they found themselves not so well-off and ready for folding, so they gave their loyal supporters little bags, and asked them and their friends to put a few coppers into them and bring them back next home match. This they did for a few weeks and they paid all debts. Management then said 'to show our appreciation to you loyal supporters and these little bags, if it wasn't for them we wouldn't be where we are, so I'm going to call you little baggies'. Thus arose The Baggies.

Meanwhile, Mr C Pritchard has kindly sent in these three photographs taken in 1954, the year that he was born, and which include his father, Benjamin Ivan Pritchard, who is the goalkeeper.

The game was the final of the Express & Star's six-a-side cup. Benjamin's team was Butler's FC. Mr Pritchard says: "He worked for Butler's brewery in Springfield Road off Cannock Road in Wolverhampton. Dad was in the RAF and also played football for the RAF in India which was his base.

"He also played for Wolves and became third team goalkeeper as understudy for the late, great Bert Williams. Dad also played for Darlaston FC after he left Wolves FC.

Mr Pritchard adds: "I also have the winners' shield Dad received in the photo of the Express & Star final. I would like to know what happened to the Express & Star Cup, where is it kept now and where the pitch was – and also the name of the other team who played in that final, and who presented the cup. The two children behind dad in the photo are my brother and sister."

Goalie Benjamin Pritchard gets the Express & Star Cup

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MNA Media

Actress Grenfell is subject of talk

Lowdown on women's roles in war

Walsall Central TG

WALSALL Central TG met on February 3 and after the formalities chairman Pat Jones introduced a prospective new member who had learned of the group through the local press.

It is timely that at this time the club thanks the newspapers for their continued support in publishing many of its monthly articles – it is greatly appreciated.

The speaker for the evening was Alan Lewis, most ably supported by his wife Joy and their topic was "Women at War".

Since the earliest of times, when battle lines have been drawn, British women have stepped forward to the fray. This presentation concentrated on the last 100 years and members were introduced, both by speech and slides, to some very special women and showed just how the feminine role had changed in time of war.

Their tasks ranged from working on the land, in factories producing ammunition to flying planes and serving on nuclear submarines.

Alan and Joy's presentation was excellent, most interesting, entertaining and so very well researched.

The next meeting of the WCTG takes place on Tuesday March 3 in the Mellish Room, Central Hall, Ablewell Street, Walsall, commencing 7pm when the Annual General Meeting will takes place.

New Members will be made most welcome and in the first instance should contact Mrs Janice Fussell, secretary, on 01922 631246.

Creating labour of love for NGS

Sutton Coldfield & District Gardeners Mutual

THE first speaker of 2015 was Graham White, accompanied by his wife Mary on the subject of 'Creating a National Gardens Scheme garden'.

More than 20 years ago they bought a house in the corner of a quarter acre 'L' shaped garden, which sloped away to an embankment, at the bottom of which was a swamp, stream and with a thicket going round the perimeter.

It took 17 years to create their wonderful garden, with 'separate rooms'.

Two ramps, two bridges and seven sets of steps go down to the lower levels. It took over two years, for the swamp to be made safe, and landscaped together with the stream.

A waterfall was created. Then, boardwalks were constructed over the stream with arbours. As well as the plants, oddities such as industrial weighing scales, water pumps and garden tools, painted green to blend in, plus a 'Folly' to house a 'bargain' add interest.

The garden is incredibly beautiful, as shown in slides and a 'virtual tour'.

It was accepted by the NGS in 2009, despite the stream flooding and rising to three-to-four feet twice two days before the inspection.

Opening alongside their neighbours, they have received 3,791 visitors, raising £33,000. The Woodleighton Gardens, Uttoxeter, are open on 11 and 12 July, 1 to 5pm, entrance £3.50.

Penn Townswomen's Guild

AFTER the chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and completed guild business, she introduced Ashley Adams for a talk on Joyce Grenfell.

Joyce came from a wealthy background, her grandparents were American and she was influenced by her Aunt Nancy who visited England, stayed and married Waldorf Astor. Joyce often visited Cliveden; she had an expensive education and went to finishing school.

Joyce was well-known for her acting career and her monologues. When she died, her memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey.

Ashley acted two short sketches; the Nativity Play at the Nursery and the Old School Reunion. Both were very amusing.

The Gardening Group had a meeting to plan the programme for the year ahead.

Social Studies speaker was Alan Bennett, Master Butcher, affectionately known as Mr Sausage.

On February 25, Philippa Cooper will talk about 'sweet success'.

New drone enjoys test flight

Wolverhampton Archaeology Group

UNFORTUNATELY, Chris Upton was unable to give his talk in January, but the group is looking forward to seeing him later in the year.

Martin filled in with two talks, the first was on computer software to analyse the results of digs which he illustrated with examples from Himley and Wednesfield.

The second was a test flight of the group's new drone which was accompanied by a film about using a drone to investigate the history of Tintagel Castle in Cornwall.

At the next meeting is on February 24, Adrian Durkin will give a talk on Richard III. This may include a re-enactment.

Adrian's talks are always very enjoyable and this promises to be a very entertaining evening.

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KENTON DEAN IS SET TO SHARE HIS SLIMMING SECRETS

A slimmer who transformed his life by losing 3 stone is using his success to shape a whole new career helping other people change their lives for the better too.

Kenton Dean joined his local Slimming World group in Mogul Lane run by Amanda Cross 4 years ago and dropped from 17 stone to 14 stone in 17 weeks.

Now Kenton Dean has trained as a Consultant for Slimming World since September 2011, the UK's leading slimming club, and is opening a new group at Portway Lifestyle Centre Newbury Lane Oldbury B69 1HE on Saturday 14th February 2015 at 09.00hrs.

Kenton already runs successful groups in Rowley Regis Rowley Regis Disability Centre Rowley Village (next to Tesco Express) B65 9AT on Tuesdays 5.30 and 7.30pm and, Fridays 9.30am and Tividale St Michaels Church Tividale Road B69 2LQ on Wednesdays at 5 and 7pm.

January weight losses at the groups were in excess of 1200lbs (over 80stone).

He says: "Obesity is becoming such a huge issue across the UK. When I first joined Slimming World as a member, I never dreamed that I would end up helping other people to lose weight but now I just can't wait to get started. It's a privilege for me to be able to pass on the experience, insight and understanding that helped me, so that I can give my members the support they need to get to target.

"Like a lot of slimmers, I had tried to lose weight so many times before by following numerous diets but they were never sustainable because I'd always get tired of restricting what I ate. I thought I was destined to struggle with my weight for the rest of my life, but when I came to Slimming World it was different. I never felt like I was on a diet. The eating plan encourages you to eat lots of filling foods like pasta, rice, potatoes and lean meat and fish, you are never hungry and no foods are banned so there's no deprivation. I couldn't believe I'd found a way to lose weight without starving myself.

"Slimming World isn't just about changing what you eat. It's all about getting the support to choose a healthier lifestyle like finding ways to become more active even if you're not very mobile or don't like exercise.

"My weight loss has completely changed my life. I was diagnosed with non alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. Following Slimming World plan has meant my liver has repaired itself and I am symptom free. My groups are more of a social event where new friends can be found. The people that come to the groups are like an extended family.

"On top of that, I've got a new career, but best of all I'm doing something that I'm passionate about. As a slimmer myself I know how hard it can be and I couldn't have lost 3 stone without my Consultant and my group. Sharing recipes and other ideas, and overcoming disappointments as well as celebrating success was all part of the journey, so there'll be lots of support, encouragement and fun at my Slimming World group."

Kenton's new Slimming World group will be held at Portway Lifestyle Centre every Saturday at 9am from 14th February 2015.

For more information or to join Kenton's group either pop along on Saturday 14TH February 2015 or call him on 07982 408088.

Or: For more information visit www.slimmingworld.com or call 0844 897 8000.

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Texas celebrating 25 years of music

Album Reviews

By Leon Burakowski

GLASWEGIAN band Texas celebrate their silver anniversary with an album that reworks their biggest hits and includes four new songs.

One of those new tunes, Start A Family, sets the soulful standard on **Texas 25** (Pias) with a tender vocal from Sharleen Spiteri and a lush arrangement glowing with Hammond organ and slide guitar. Black Eyed Boy is reinvented as a Motown stomper, Say What You Want has fatter bass and horns, Halo and Inner Smile are given southern soul makeovers, while The Conversation gets a voodoo vibe. When We Are Together finds Sharleen emulating Diana Ross on a Supremes-like revamp.

Their best known song, I Don't Want A Lover, is funkier on these New York-recorded Truth & Soul Sessions whilst keeping the signature slide guitar. Summer Son is given a reggae-like lilt plus lots more Hammond and echo.

Of the new songs, Are You Ready is the weakest but is pleasant enough with its surf guitar and sing-along chorus. Supafly Boy is pure 60s with a Sliced Tomatoes-like backing. Say Goodbye echoes both Say What You Want and Al Green's back catalogue.

If these revamped versions make you nostalgic for the originals, among the various formats of album from February 16 is a double CD pack containing the original hits too. Expect a stripped back, semi-acoustic approach when Sharleen and her boys present An Evening with Texas at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 19.

London siblings **Kitty, Daisy and Lewis** Durham return with **The Third** — yes it's album number three — exploring a diversity of retro stylings, often with harmonica to the fore on this Sunday Best release. Highlights include bluebeat chugger Baby Bye Bye, Kinks-like opener Whenever You See Me, the bluesy Good Looking Woman and Imelda May-ish rockabilly number It Ain't Your Business, all produced by former Clash guitarist Mick Jones.

Sharleen Spiteri, singer with Texas, who have given their repertoire a revamp

Jazz singer and pianist **Diana Krall** reworks several modern standards and personalises them in her restrained style that remains somewhat minimalist despite lush production on new album **Wallflower** (Verve).

Songs getting the Krall treatment include California Dreamin', Desperado, Superstar, I'm Not In Love, Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word and Don't Dream It's Over. There are a couple of star duets, Michael Bublé joining Krall for a version of Gilbert O'Sullivan's achingly sad Alone Again and Feels Like Home with Bryan Adams.

The key track is a new Paul McCartney song, written for Krall, with the former Beatle in full-on romantic mode for I'll Take You Home Tonight which sounds like a lost Wings classic, which she gives due gravitas.

She will be kicking off her UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on September 28.

Despite a sexist sleeve, that was par for the course in the 70s, **The Best of Cerrone Productions** (Because) is a hugely enjoyable glitterball of 70s disco from the stable of ace French producer Marc **Cerrone**.

Flamboyant

This 36-track double set involves more panting than in the average marathon, lots of pulsating electronics and decadent strings, and bland choral singing, under Cerrone's own name and various pseudonyms/protégés. Cerrone and Italian counterpart Giorgio 'I Feel Love' Moroder practically invented disco and their flamboyant sounds remain an epitome of ridiculous hedonist fun.

All We Are are a trio who met at university in Liverpool but hail from Ireland, Norway and Brazil, and on their eponymous debut album they demonstrate a kind of aloof cool that could appeal to fans of London Grammar and The XX. Released by Domino, tracks such as Stone and the more upbeat Honey have an icy allure.

No Romeo is the belated debut album from Nottingham singer **Indiana** (AKA Lauren Henson), losing momentum with it being released by Epic several months after her synth pop hit Solo Dancing. There is depth here, dark subjects explored on songs such as Play Dead and Blind As I Am, from an electronic artist closer in spirit to James Blake or PJ Harvey than typical dancefloor fodder. Seek this if you like Portishead or London Grammar.

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February is Heart Month and this year we're urging people to take at least 10 minutes a day to help improve their heart health as well as support our annual fundraiser, Wear it. Beat it.

There are currently seven million people in the UK living with cardiovascular disease, which includes heart attack and stroke. However, in many cases people can reduce their risk of these conditions by improving their diet, doing more physical activity and quitting smoking.

New statistics we're releasing today show that less than a third (30%) of adults in England eat five pieces of fruit and vegetables a day, and 33% of men and nearly half (45%) of women do not do the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity a week.

To better understand these trends, we carried out a survey that showed a lack of time and motivation are top of the list in terms of barriers that are preventing people being as healthy as they would like. The survey found that almost a quarter (23%) of people said their family or work commitments get in the way of them leading a healthier lifestyle, with 20% saying losing motivation is the biggest barrier currently preventing them from leading a healthier lifestyle.

Small, everyday changes

In response, we're encouraging people to 'start small' by taking at least 10 minutes every day to make a small change towards a healthier lifestyle during February's Heart Month. This is in line with government recommendations that adults should aim to be active daily, 'in bouts of 10 minutes or more', adding up to at least 150 minutes per week.

Catherine Kelly, our Director of Prevention, Survival and Support, said: *"The public have told us loud and clear that time and motivation are fundamental barriers to a healthy lifestyle. We have to listen to their concerns and during this Heart Month we are offering people manageable and realistic guidance to help make small changes to their extremely busy routines."*

"We know that changing the simplest everyday habits can make a big difference - from getting off the bus two stops early to eating more fruit and veg, and building bite-sized chunks of physical activity in to your everyday life. During Heart Month we're urging everyone to take on the Heart month 10 minute challenge to improve their heart health as well as join our Wear it. Beat it. fundraising event on 6 February to fund life saving research."

Get involved

During Heart Month the BHF is offering an email support programme and advice to help people improve their diet, get more active or quit smoking. You can join the conversation on social media using the hashtag, #10MinChallenge

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Choose from a selection of hotels in four resorts. Limone on the western shore is named after the terraced citrus groves on the surrounding hills. Torbole is one of the liveliest resorts, offering a vibrant café life, a lakeside promenade and is the perfect location for the windsurfing enthusiasts. Riva del Garda is famous for its busy historic centre surrounded by elegant pastel-painted buildings and a number of bars, restaurants and shops, whereas Malcesine is a quieter resort for those wanting a more relaxed atmosphere.

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Two days departing June 28

PRICE FROM £95

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Three days departing July 3

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Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Garden

Three days departing June 12 and Sept 18

PRICE FROM £195

- Return coach travel
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- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Nice night out with comics and music

COMEDY character Mrs Barbara Nice will appear in an all-female variety show at a Wolverhampton arts centre.

The show is being presented at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Dunkley Street, on March 5 as part of International Women's Week.

The character has been created by Janice Connolly who appeared as Holy Mary in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights and Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere. Miss Connolly has also been in Coronation Street and is artistic director and founder member of Birmingham-based Women and Theatre.

The show at 7pm will feature four comedians and musical acts. Tickets are £8, call 01902 572090.

The mighty Quinn has three dates

SINGER and actor Ray Quinn will be singing in the Black Country and Staffordshire on his UK tour, starting at the Robin 2 in Bilston on March 4.

The Dare To Dream tour also visits the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock on April 23 and Lichfield's Garrick Theatre on June 20. The 26-year-old was runner up to Leona Lewis on The X-Factor in 2006 and won ITV's Dancing on Ice in 2009 and the final All Stars series.

Following his first platinum selling album Doing it My Way, Quinn is moving from swing to soul and ballads on new album Dare to Dream, released in April.

Jodie's return as Calamity Jane is now just a whip-crack-away

THE nation's Nancy, Jodie Prenger, is back on the boards in the West Midlands as a rootin' tootin' wild west heroine in the whip-cracking musical Calamity Jane.

The Blackpool girl with the big voice was catapulted into fame when the public voted her their choice to win 2008 BBC TV series I'd Do Anything, the TV talent search for a performer to play Nancy in the revival of Lionel Bart's musical Oliver! at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

She won critical acclaim in the role and went on to carve out a career on the stage, both in the West End and on tour, in such shows as Spamalot and One Man Two Guvnors.

She has also become a radio presenter, often deputising for her pal Paul O'Grady on BBC Radio 2.

The UK tour of Calamity Jane, which calls at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, gives Jodie the chance to take on a role famously created on film by her idol Doris Day in 1953.

She will be playing tom boy Jane opposite Tom Lister, best known for playing Carl King in TV's Emmerdale, in the Howard Keel role as Wild Bill Hickock.

One-nighter

The show's Oscar nominated score includes The Black Hills of Dakota, The Deadwood Stage (Whip-Crack-Away), Just Blew in from the Windy City and the Award winning song Secret Love.

Lindsay Posner's revival of 1940s Pulitzer prize winning Broadway comedy Harvey, which was made into a film starring James Stewart, continues at Birmingham Rep with James Dreyfuss as the man who believes he has a giant rabbit pal and Maureen Lipman as his worried sister.

Also at the Centenary Square venue, the main house hosts a special one-nighter on Sunday, A Summer In The South, readings from the works of Colette by Robert Powell and Siân Phillips.

An ageing Caribbean recluse who keeps bees and a teenage heiress clash in The

By Leon Burakowski

Honey Man by Tyrone Huggins, with the Birmingham playwright himself in the titular role, at The Rep's The Door venue from Monday to Saturday.

Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands, the choreographer's dream-like dance version of Tim Burton's popular fantasy, continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday. Then Birmingham Royal Ballet start their latest season at the Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, three American ballets, from February 18 to 21.

The sensational singing siblings who found fame on Britain's Got Talent, Richard & Adam, are at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday night. Their Valentine's special features a fellow singer from Wales, Sophie Evans. She found fame as the runner-up on BBC TV's Over The Rainbow in 2010, and went on to perform as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium, a role shared with winner Danielle Hope.

Strictly Come Dancing's Brendan Cole is at the Grand tonight (Thursday) with his Latin and ballroom extravaganza A Night To Remember. His former colleagues Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace star in Dance Til Dawn at the New Alexandra until Saturday, and Anton du Beke and Erin Boag present That's Entertainment at the Symphony Hall on Saturday.

Scene from The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Curious drama is a mystery

THE National Theatre's award-winning production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week as part of its first UK tour.

Running from Tuesday to Saturday, Simon Stephens' adaptation of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel received seven Olivier Awards, including Best New Play. It was seen by more than 200,000 in the West End.

The play tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old ill-equipped to deal with everyday life who is found beside his neighbour's dead dog, Wellington, which has been speared with a garden fork. Christopher is under suspicion, so uses his extraordinary brain and exceptional ability at maths to solve the mystery.

The Curious Incident will be explored again at Birmingham Hippodrome from May 26 to June 6.

Dunlop to play at Kitchen Garden

IF you are out in the Second City on Friday then critically acclaimed Blair Dunlop will be playing the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham.

Doors open 7.30pm with the show starting 8pm. Tickets are £12 but may incur a booking fee if bought through the website.

On the same night, February 13, the Woodman Folk Club, which meets at the Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford is playing host to Jinksy. Members £6 and non-members £1 more. Shows start 8.30pm.

Then on February 20 you can enjoy The Jigantics, the show starts at the same time and members pay £7, non-members £8.

Carrying legacy of The Dubliners

IF you are a fan of the legendary Dubliners then you will enjoy the group which is carrying on their legacy in Birmingham next week.

The Dublin Legends will be playing the ornate Town Hall, Victoria Square on February 15.

The show starts 7.30pm and tickets are £25 plus the usual transaction fee.

Singer Diana Jones will be playing at Up In Arms, Biddulph, Staffordshire on Wednesday, February 18.

Tickets are £12 and doors open 7.30 for 8pm start.

For anyone wanting more information or to reserve seats then call Eric Cox on 01782 514896.

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CHOICE

Harry Hill

Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes
(ITV, 6.30pm)

Harry Hill has never been the sort of funnyman to play it safe, but is his version of Stars in Their Eyes too surreal for mainstream tastes? Some might think so. This looks like the latest failure for the ex-doctor who scored a smash with TV Burp, but the poor reception of stage musical I Can't Sing and Harry Hill: The Movie have left some fans wondering if he will eventually return to Burp. Let's hope so, but for now, settle back and enjoy possibly the last ever edition of his karaoke show. Christina Aguilera (Christie Holland), Frankie Valli (Peter Sarsfield), Lady Gaga (Emma Wright), Paloma Faith (Sharon Williams) and last week's champion hope they have what it takes to win the SITE final.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v France (Kick-off 5.00pm).

6.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.15 The Voice UK. The blind auditions continue, although competition is fiercer than ever as the number of available places on each team reduces. Tonight's hopefuls include Beckenham duo the Rise, spoken-word poet Lara Lee and Damian Dalton Smith – the brother of actress Sheridan Smith. Will any of them impress Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora enough for them to turn in their seats? Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage with the contestants' families.

8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin.

9.25 Casualty. The team struggles to remain professional while treating a child serial killer and the mother of one of her victims. Connie suggests Dylan should apply for the consultant's vacancy.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the opening fifth-round matches, which included West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United at the Hawthorns and Blackburn Rovers v Stoke City at Ewood Park; National Lottery Update.

11.35 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Bournemouth v Huddersfield Town.

12.55 Film: Wake Wood. (2010) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: A Double Life. (1947) **8.10** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **8.40** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **9.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **10.00** Six Nations Rewind. **11.00** FA Cup Rewind: Fifth-Round Classics. **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** A Taste of Britain. **1.00** Shelley Winters: Talking Pictures. **1.30 Film:** The Treasure of Pancho Villa. (1955) Western, starring Rory Calhoun. **3.00 Film:** The Desperados. (1969) Western, starring Jack Palance. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** The Wonder of Animals. (R) **5.50** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R)

6.50 Flog It! The team visits Coventry Cathedral, where Will Axon and Michael Baggot value items including a collection of Clarice Cliff and a trio of watches. Presented by Paul Martin.

7.35 How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson. New series. The American science author explores the impact on the modern world of innovations in six technologies, beginning by tracing developments in cleaning and sanitation.

8.35 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Maltby's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)

9.05 Simon Rattle: The Making of a Maestro. Documentary following the principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic over the course of a year as he prepares for a series of concerts, oratorios and operas with five different orchestras. The film also uses archive material to explore Rattle's career, including his days at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. There is also an interview in which he talks about his life and work and there are contributions by Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nicholas Kenyon and Peter Sellars.

10.05 The Dave Clark Five and Beyond: Glad All Over. Documentary looking at the impact and legacy of the London band on the American music scene in the 1960s, when they spearheaded the British invasion alongside the Beatles.

12.00 TOTP2: The 60s. (R) **12.30 Film:** Telstar: The Joe Meek Story. (2008) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** The Unforgettable Larry Grayson. (R) **2.05** The Chase. (R) **3.05** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.00** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.10** ITV News; Weather. **5.25** You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! (R)

6.30 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. The finalists – Christina Aguilera, Frankie Valli, Lady Gaga, Paloma Faith and last week's champion – return to battle it out for the coveted trophy. Last in the series.

7.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a US grandmother with a knack for hip-hop, a human Ken doll in Russia, a terrifying lesson in self-defence in Nigeria, and Dawn French's encounter with an obscene dancer.

8.05 Take Me Out. Club promoter Seeb, barman Ben, scuba-diving instructor Will and tailor Phil all hope to find their valentine among a line-up of 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness hosts.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by TV double act Ant and Dec, Jonathan Creek star Alan Davies, Hollywood actress Goldie Hawn and Grammy-winning musician Diana Krall, who also performs.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Cricket World Cup Highlights. Australia v England. Tom Skippings presents action from both teams' opening World Cup Pool A match, held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

11.35 Film: Balls of Fury. (2007) The FBI recruits a washed-up former ping-pong champion to infiltrate an underground tournament run by a criminal mastermind. Comedy, starring Dan Fogler and Christopher Walken.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Child Genius. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Haydock Park and Wincanton. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.45** The Simpsons. (R)

6.10 The Simpsons. Grampa bumps into a newspaper columnist who becomes fascinated with his life and writes a series of stories about him, but Homer becomes suspicious of the journalist's motives. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Our Guy in India. Part two of two. Guy Martin visits Mumbai, where more skyscrapers are being built than anywhere else in the world, and clambers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial. Back on ground level, the daredevil visits a slum where a million people live in the space of one square mile, before experiencing a downpour on his Royal Enfield with the arrival of the monsoons. To avoid slow-moving and dangerous roads, he makes the final leg of his 1,000-mile journey by sea, on his way to compete in Rider Mania. (R)

8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. An icicle the size of a house causes a street to close in Canada as contractors attempt to remove it using chainsaws, and a mysterious green haze envelops Moscow.

9.00 Film: The Bourne Legacy. (2012) Premiere. The leaders of a secret government agency plan to eliminate several agents as part of a cover-up when they face having their dark secrets exposed. One of the assassins targeted is able to evade his fate and go on the run – but his escape is threatened by his dependence on drugs to boost his physical and mental capabilities. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner and Edward Norton.

11.40 Film: Sanctum. (2011) Thriller, starring Richard Roxburgh.

1.40 The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Random Acts. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.50** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. **10.40** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **3.00 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock. (1973) **4.30 Film:** Columbo Goes to the Guillotine. (1989) Detective drama, with Peter Falk.

6.20 5 News Weekend.

6.25 NCIS. The team tries to track down Harper Dearing following the bomb attack on the NCIS headquarters, which has left Ziva and Tony trapped in a lift. (R)

7.10 NCIS. Part one of two. Gibbs is injured in an explosion while conducting inquiries aboard a ship and lapses into a coma, during which he has flashbacks of his hidden past. (R)

8.05 NCIS. Gibbs emerges from his coma with amnesia, meaning he is unable to provide the team with vital intelligence regarding a terrorist plot. (R)

9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The death of popular high-school chemistry teacher Chet Messener in a fire appears at first to have been an accident, but the CSIs notice an accelerant was used at the scene and deduce they may have a murder on their hands. They discover Messener was until recently part of a secret coven at the school that had been dabbling in the arcane arts, and had also been selling steroids to the athletics team.

10.00 Law & Order. A dispute over a missing pair of trousers ends in murder – and the ensuing investigation leads Lupo and Green to a businessman working for a shady multinational corporation.

10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Benson search for a teenage boy who disappeared after revealing he had become sexually attracted to his much younger stepbrother. Christopher Meloni stars. (R)

11.45 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. The rape of a nine-year-old girl is linked to the unsolved murder of a woman in Toronto three years previously when DNA evidence proves the assaults were by the same person. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Tropic Thunder (2008) **10.40** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **11.10** Family Guy **1.50** Crims **2.20** Uncle **2.50** South Side Story **3.20** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Amazon: Unnatural Histories **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Spiral **10.40** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe **11.10** Horizon: Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth **12.10** Horizon: Swallowed by a Black Hole **1.10** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.50** Love Songs at the BBC: A Valentine's Day Special **2.50** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.05 The Cube: Celebrity Special **12.05** Educating Joey Essex: Supermodel Student **1.10 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **3.20** You've Been Framed! **4.50 Film:** She's the Man (2006) **7.00 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05** Reality Bites **10.45** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **11.15** Ibiza Weekender **12.15 Film:** I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.00 A Touch of Frost **2.10 Film:** Holiday On the Buses (1973) **3.55** Wycliffe **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.25 The Big Fish Off **12.25** Hogan's Heroes **1.30** Counting Cars **2.30** Storage Wars **2.55 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **5.30** Storage Wars **6.20** Storage Wars: Texas **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00 Film:** Game of Death (2010) **11.05 Film:** The Keeper (2009) **1.10** River Monsters **2.05** Hogan's Heroes **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.35 Marry Me **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Troy **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Run Fat Boy Run (2007) **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** How I Met Your Mother **12.40** 2 Broke Girls **1.40** Troy **2.40** The Cleveland Show **3.25** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **4.10** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Charmed **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Bless This House (1972) **1.00** St Trinian's (2007) **3.00** Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969) **5.10** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **6.55** One Day (2011) **9.00** The Brave One (2007) **11.25** Betty Blue: The Director's Cut (1993) **3.05** Close

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CHOICE

Michael Gambon

The Casual Vacancy (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Drama adapted from the novel by JK Rowling, set in an English village whose seemingly idyllic facade hides a community at war. At the parish council meeting, chairman Howard Mollison introduces his plans to turn the community centre into a health spa, but he reckons without local solicitor Barry Fairbrother, who makes an impassioned speech about the importance of the centre to the impoverished people of the nearby estate. However, an unexpected turn of events leaves an empty seat on the council – leading to the biggest battle Pagford has ever seen. Michael Gambon, Rory Kinnear, Keeley Hawes and Julia McKenzie star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.00** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** The Match of the Day Live. Aston Villa v Leicester City (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v Wales (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News.

6.00 Super Cute Animals. Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan embarks on a global journey to find some of the world's cutest animals, aiming to understand why people find them so endearing and revealing the surprising science behind each different creature. He begins with the giant panda, whose unusually large head tells a story of millions of years of evolution and survival. Gordon also reveals how the fennec fox's ears are crucial to its survival, discovers the surprising secret behind a penguin's waddle and meets a five-year-old chimpanzee whose giggle reveals new information about man's evolution.

7.00 Countryfile. The pros and cons of the hunting ban in Gloucestershire, using pedal-power to exercise foxhounds and how motorway services on the M5 are being redefined for the 21st century.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A Christian Scientist couple refuse medicine for their newborn baby – a case that becomes more complicated when they are accused of harming their child.

9.00 The Casual Vacancy. New series. Drama based on the novel by JK Rowling, set in a seemingly idyllic village where the locals go to war over an empty seat on the parish council. Michael Gambon stars.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the latest fifth-round matches, including Aston Villa v Leicester City at Villa Park and Arsenal v Middlesbrough at the Emirates Stadium.

11.20 The Apprentice USA. The celebrities are tasked with producing a live cooking demonstration for a steak company, as well as creating and naming a new meat variety pack.

12.45 Film: Stolen. (2010) **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** FA Cup Rewind: Fifth-Round Classics. **11.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.50** The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. (R) **1.50** Food & Drink; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.10** Open All Hours. (R) **3.40** To the Manor Born. (R) **4.10** Hi-de-Hi! (R) **4.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.15** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom. (R)

6.15 Ski Sunday. Highlights from the alpine skiing world championships from Vail/Beaver Creek in Colorado, including the men's giant slalom discipline.

7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane. Catthorpe is a major interchange linking the M1 and A14 to the start of the M6, but now it's about to be redesigned at a cost of more than £190million to make it safer and less congested. Overseeing the work is construction manager Mark Sutton, who has to ensure the local residents are happy, as well as relocating a protected colony of great crested newts. Elsewhere, the Highways Agency and maintenance teams cope with the aftermath of an overturned lorry that spilt a cargo of milk on to the carriageway. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson compares BMW's M4 with its hybrid-powered i8 model and Richard Hammond pays tribute to the Land Rover. With guests Will Smith and Margot Robbie.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas pitched include an anti-piracy device for sailors, a children's bike horn, a brand of ice-cream with an east Asian flavour and a shopping app. Evan Davis presents.

10.00 Modern Times: Mayfair. Documentary about the characters who live and work in the area of central London, from an upmarket resident who dresses in Victorian clothing to a cabbie living in social housing.

11.00 Film: The Quiet American. (2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, but suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser.

12.35 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) **2.55** Countryfile. (R) **3.50** Holby City. (R) **4.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10** Mel & Sue's Best Bits. **3.10** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15 Film:** For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Get Your Act Together. Actress Nina Wadia (best known as EastEnders' Zainab) is mentored by mind reader Marc Paul. Emmerdale's Roxy Shahidi (Leyla) joins contortionist Pixie Le Knot, TV presenter Matt Johnson is coached by tap dancers Tap Corps, former Hi-de-Hi! star Ruth Madoc teams up with mime artist Les Bubb, and pop twins Jedward collaborate with Jump Rope UK for some double-dutch skipping. Host Stephen Mulhern follows the rehearsals leading up to the contestants' big performances as they compete for a place in next week's final.

8.15 All Star Family Fortunes. Retired Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba and newsreader Ranvir Singh team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Frank learns he may be unwittingly complicit in Kitty's attack, Harry realises his feelings for Nancy are stronger than he first thought, and Violette makes her move on Victor.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Perspectives: Sheila Hancock – The Brilliant Bronte Sisters. The actress explores the work of the 19th-century literary family, setting out to discover what inspired them to write such epic novels seemingly worlds apart from their own lives. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** City of Ember. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Saoirse Ronan. **4.40** Channel 4 News. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.05 A Place in the Sun. Sara Damergi helps Hull couple Peter and Julia Andrews find a holiday home in Fuerteventura on a budget of £60,000.

7.00 The Hotel. It's the end of the summer season and Mark prepares to bid farewell to the Cavendish, but he has more than work on his mind as his mum Stella recovers from a stroke in hospital. Hoping to secure his legacy at the hotel, the entertainments manager plans a lavish black-tie gala celebrating local family businesses, but with time running out, he admits to ex-colleague Alison that he's only sold 23 out of 70 seats.

8.00 The Auction House. New series. As the goods arrive for the week's sale at Lots Road Auctions, the valuers admire a pair of opulent dog beds, while a regular buyer helps a friend kit out her mansion.

9.00 Indian Summers. New series. Drama set in 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Ralph Whelan and the rest of the Indian Civil Service begin the annual move to Simla, while doyenne of the social scene Cynthia Coffin prepares the exclusively white British Club for the start of the summer season. The train to Simla is delayed, however, when a boy is found collapsed on the railway tracks, while a mysterious assassin makes his way to the city.

10.40 Gogglebox 2014. Highlights from the reality show, featuring the nation's favourite armchair critics commenting on popular TV programmes as they watch them.

12.15 Film: No Country for Old Men. (2007) **2.20** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **3.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.30** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Wanda and the Alien. **8.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **11.25** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.25** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.25 Film:** How to Make an American Quilt. (1995) Drama, starring Winona Ryder. **3.35 Film:** Loch Ness. (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson. **5.30 Film:** Lady and the Tramp. (1955) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Barbara Luddy.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: Memphis Belle. (1990) The crewmen of an American B-17 bomber prepare for their final flight before returning home to a hero's welcome. However, the mission – to launch a daylight raid on a supply factory in a heavily defended German city – threatens to be the most hazardous they have ever undertaken. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, John Lithgow, Harry Connick Jr, Tate Donovan and Billy Zane. Edited for language and violence.

9.00 Film: War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father's rare weekend with his two estranged children descends into horror when alien war machines rise from beneath Earth and begin to systematically destroy every human being in their path – leaving the man with the dangerous task of getting his kids to safety. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, based on HG Wells' novel, with Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning, Justin Chatwin, Miranda Otto and Tim Robbins.

11.20 Film: Drag Me to Hell. (2009) A bank employee is cursed to suffer a series of misfortunes, and has to break the spell in three days before a demon takes her to Hell. Horror, with Alison Lohman.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 The Voice UK **8.20 Film:** Meet the Parents (2000) **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.50** Uncle **12.20** American Dad! **12.40** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.40** Bangkok Airport **2.35** Crims **3.05** Bangkok Airport

BBC Four

7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic, London 2015 **9.40 Film:** Goodbye First Love (2011) **11.30** Wonders of the Solar System **12.30** Sounds of the 70s **1.00** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **2.00** Neil Sedaka Says: All You Need Is the Music **2.45** You've Got a Friend: The Carole King Story

ITV2

11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.40** You've Been Framed! **2.10** Scorpion **3.05 Film:** The Little Vampire (2000) **5.00 Film:** Space Jam (1996) **6.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality (2000) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30 Film:** Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **12.35 Film:** The Invention of Lying (2009) **2.20** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.05 Wycliffe **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35 Film:** Parenthood (1989) **1.55** Countrywise Kitchen **2.20** Countrywise **3.10** On the Buses **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.15 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **2.25** Pawn Stars **5.10 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **7.00** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Harry's South Pole Heroes **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00 Film:** Horsemen of the Apocalypse (2009) **12.55** Hell on Wheels **1.40** River Monsters **2.30** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30** Rude(ish) Tube **5.00** Melissa & Joey **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Zoolander (2001) **9.45** The Inbetweeners **10.50** Rude Tube Shorts **11.05** Rude Tube **12.10** Taking New York **1.15** How I Met Your Mother **2.10** Rules of Engagement **3.00** The New Normal **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Ten Tall Men (1951) **1.00** Stardust (2007) **3.30** The Lost World (1960) **5.25** The Waterboy (1998) **7.05** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.50** Unfaithful (2002) **1.15** Weekend (2011) **3.20** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Act of Valor, Channel 5, 11pm
A team of elite Navy personnel is sent on a mission to rescue a kidnapped CIA agent. Their mission leads them to uncover a conspiracy between a Russian drug smuggler and a fanatical terrorist, and a plan to launch a devastating attack on the United States. Military adventure, starring Alex Veadov and Roselyn Sanchez. (2012)

TUESDAY
Carry On Girls, ITV, 11.40pm
The council of a seaside town is in dire need of a means to attract tourists to its resort, so announces a beauty contest. While the conniving organiser plots a series of publicity stunts, an outraged feminist group plans to sabotage the event. Comedy, starring Sid James, June Whitfield, Joan Sims, Barbara Windsor, Bernard Bresslaw and Peter Butterworth. (1973)

Erin Brockovich, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY
Erin Brockovich, Channel 5, 10pm
A single mother desperate for work pleads her way into a routine administrative job at a law firm. It is not long before she stumbles across mislaid documents about a case brought against a corporation for poisoning the residents of a small town by contaminating their water supply. Realising something is amiss, she begins her own investigation. Fact-based drama, with Julia Roberts in an Oscar-winning role. (2000)

THURSDAY
AI: Artificial Intelligence, BBC1, 11.45pm
A highly advanced robotic boy is created with one purpose - to love his owner as a parent. When he is rejected by his "mother', he is left to roam the bleak landscapes of a futuristic America with a fellow android, searching for a means of becoming a real boy in the hope of regaining her love. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment. (2001)

FRIDAY
2001: A Space Odyssey, BBC2, 11.05pm
Scientists detect a mysterious black monolith on the moon is transmitting a signal to Jupiter. A spacecraft is sent on a mission to investigate the origins of the strange object, but as they near their destination, the astronauts realise the computer controlling the ship is turning against them. Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi epic, with Keir Dullea. (1968)

PICK OF THE WEEK

The truth will finally be revealed this week

On February 19, 1985, an icon was born. At 7pm, viewers heard Simon May and Leslie Osbourne's unforgettable theme for the first time before the opening scene – involving the discovery of pensioner Reg Cox's corpse by Dirty Den Watts and his pals.

Yes, EastEnders burst onto the TV landscape that night and has been a mainstay ever since, grabbing the attention with numerous controversial, gritty and enthralling headlines.

Who can ever forget Den handing wife Angie divorce papers on Christmas Day 1986, watched by over 30 million people? Or Kat announcing that she's Zoe's mother? Or even Frank turning up naked on Pat's doorstep? Now there's an image that can't be erased from the memory…

The latest massive storyline has involved the murder of Lucy Beale, which took place on Good Friday last year.

After almost 12 months of wondering whodunit, we should find out the truth in tonight's two episodes and tomorrow's much-publicised live edition – but executive producer Dominic Treadwell-Collins claims there's even more excitement to come.

"As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we have set ourselves an enormous challenge – a week of live scenes, a form-breaking flashback, a live episode, story twists that will leave a lump in the throat and a few moments that will elicit genuine gasps from our audience."

The tension will have been building across the week, beginning on Tuesday with Barbara Windsor's return as battleaxe Peggy Mitchell. While much of Tuesday to Thursday's episodes have been pre-shot, live scenes will also be included on each night, just to spice things up a little – and no doubt keep the actors on their toes.

Tuesday will have been dominated by the fate of Ronnie Mitchell, and Wednesday by Ian and Jane's wedding, but it's Thursday and Friday that fans are most interested in.

Nick Cotton – yes, Nasty Nick, one of the soap's original characters – is about to meet his maker, Kim goes into labour and secrets about the Mitchell clan come to light before Lucy's death takes centre stage once more.

Thursday's second episode sees Hetti Bywater return to the role in flashback, as the night of her murder is relived. The whole of Friday's edition will then be broadcast live, and following various revelations, it's fair to say that life in Albert Square may never be the same again.

"Everyone is really buzzing and excited about it," says actor Shane Richie of the live aspects of the anniversary. "We can't wait for it to come! You know it's a really big team effort and everyone's really excited about it. Obviously some have got more to do than others but the fact that we're involved in it is a blessing."

Will viewers think all the effort has been worthwhile once the week is over? Let's hope so – in fact, let's hope we're all tuning in again in another 30 years time as Walford turns 60, when we may be looking back at memorable moments that include the unveiling of Lucy Beale's killer.

Hetti Bywater stars as Lucy in EastEnders, Thursday, BBC1, 9.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Match of the Day Live
BBC1, 7.30pm
Preston North End v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the concluding FA Cup fifth-round tie at Deepdale, as the League One hosts look to cause an upset. United have been drawn away from home to lower-league opposition in all three of their ties so far, and needed a replay to get past Cambridge United in round four, as did Preston, as they won 3-1 at Sheffield United. The sixth-round draw follows the match. Presented by Gary Lineker.

UKIP: The First 100 Days
Channel 4, 9pm
'What if' is one of the greatest, and occasionally most chilling premises for any drama, as Twilight Zone and Black Mirror have proved over the years. Occasionally Channel 4 also make one-off political dramas such as The Trial of Tony Blair, and this docu-drama from the producers of excellent Maisie Williams drama Cyberbully. It's set in a future where UKIP have won a shock victory in the 2015 general election, and Nigel Farage is Britain's Prime Minister. It follows the work of a newly elected MP, Deepa Kaur, UKIP's only female Asian MP enduring frontline politics during her first 100 days in office.

TUESDAY
THE GIFT
BBC1, 9pm
Matt Baker meets 51-year-old Jon Howe, who as a boy was the school bully. He is ashamed of the torment he dealt out to one boy in particular – Simon Pierce – and now wants to find his former classmate to apologise. But will Simon even want to see him, let alone forgive him? Mel Giedroyc hears from 46-year-old Lisa Whaymand, who was diagnosed with leukaemia but survived thanks to a bone-marrow transplant. Now she would like to meet her donor – despite their identities being kept anonymous.

WEDNESDAY
WOLF HALL
BBC2, 9pm
The Act of Supremacy has declared Henry the supreme head of the church in England, but Holy Roman emperor Charles V and his ambassador Eustache Chapuys refuse to recognise the new title or the monarch's divorce and subsequent marriage. With Anne pregnant and away from court, Henry begins to take more notice of Jane Seymour, whose family enlist Cromwell's help in their dealings with the king – much to Anne's displeasure. Historical drama, starring Mark Rylance.

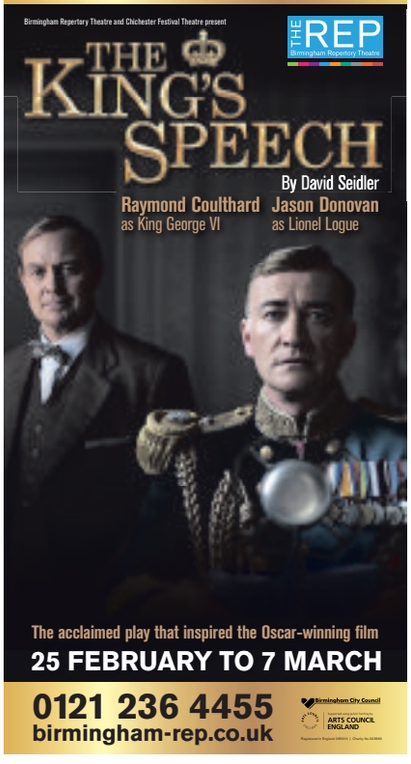
Bear Grylls: Mission Survive, Friday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
CUCUMBER
Channel 4, 9pm
It may lack the sparkle and originality of his groundbreaking Queer as Folk, but Cucumber has nevertheless won over a new generation of fans and kept Russell T Davies' existing supporters more than happy. It's also introduced the world to an intriguing central character in Henry Best, the middle-aged insurance expert who has put his previously happy relationship with long-standing partner Lance on the line during a moment of madness. This week, his lies seem destined to catch up with him, potentially putting him on a collision course with everyone he loves.

FRIDAY
THE MUSKETEERS
BBC1, 9pm
King Louis accepts an invitation to view the solar eclipse at the castle observatory of renowned astronomer Marmion, so Rochefort and a trio of Musketeers escort the courtiers. However, just as the sun is blocked out by the moon, a shocking turn of events leaves the royal party fearing for their lives. Just who is this Marmion and what is his game? Back at the garrison, Athos and Treville remain unaware of the danger faced by the king and their friends – until help arrives from an unexpected source. Tom Burke, Santiago Cabrera and Howard Charles star.

Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
ITV, 9pm
New series. Eight celebrities embark on a 12-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, where they must learn to navigate difficult terrain, build shelter, make fire and eat the food that nature provides. From abseiling down ferocious waterfalls to crossing perilous rapids, the stars face a range of challenges and Bear himself eliminates one of them each week, leaving three in the final. Kelly Holmes, Mike Tindall, Emilia and Laurence Fox, Max George, Jamelia, Vogue Williams and Tom Rosenthal make up the team.

COMING SOON TO THE REP



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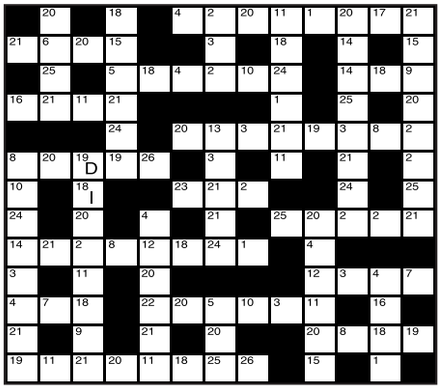
BRAIN GYM No.312

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



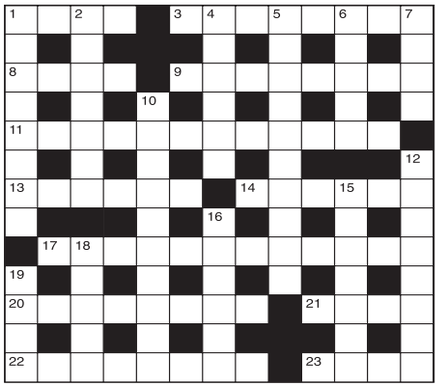
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 I
6	19 D
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	X	C	U	J	O	A	B	G	W	V	Q	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	T	D	E	L	I	Y	F	M	K	R	H	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1 & 3Ac. He's most likely to succeed (4-8)
3. See 1 Across
8. How many removed from the Vatican in excommunication? (4)
9. By which Parliament votes for a large military unit (8)
11. Honesty is the necessary quality of a good ruler (12)
13. Interfere with the decoration, by the sound of it (6)
14. Make an attack in some of the fiercest R.A.F. expeditions (6)
17. Almost synonymous with evening-dress? (5-7)
20. Doing what Ivy does (8)
21. One in the vessel is a murderer (4)
22. This indicates the way to finish off secretarial correspondence (8)
23. Endlessly give one's attention to the boss (4)

Down

1. Fine looking vehicle, we hear (8)
2. Eroding badly, but went unheeded (7)
4. An unfortunate state in which to make a solemn promise (6)
5. A falsehood by a whole group of people leads to estrangement (10)
6. Ways out for ten in different site (5)
7. Small container required before the end of the day (4)
10. What the dentist acting as a locum will do (4,3,3)
12. Dear ones thought things out differently (8)
15. What strange skill will get across! (7)
16. They make it possible to track down South American money! (6)
18. Giving confectionery a topping finish (5)
19. Scripture book put back in the oldest cathedral (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Snug (4)
3. Motion (8)
8. Approaching (4)
9. Each person (8)
11. Decrease in affection (12)
13. Blow (6)
14. Essential commodity (6)
17. Unconcern (12)
20. Bills (8)
21. Wise men (4)
22. Banish (8)
23. Remain (4)

Down

1. Summarise (8)
2. Smash (7)
4. Plunder (6)
5. Imperious (10)
6. Contempt (5)
7. A vegetable (4)
10. Defamation (10)
12. Rashness (8)
15. Locket (7)
16. Influence (6)
18. New (5)
19. Jetty (4)

Sudoku

7				6			8	2
		3		8		1	5	7
	8		7					
6			3				2	
8				2	7			6
	5		6		4			3
	2						7	
1	9	8		7		6		
4				9				5

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	5	7	6	3	2	8	1
8	6	2	9	4	1	7	3	5
7	3	1	5	2	8	6	9	4
6	2	3	8	7	5	1	4	9
1	7	4	3	9	6	5	2	8
9	5	8	2	1	4	3	6	7
2	8	7	1	3	9	4	5	6
5	1	6	4	8	2	9	7	3
3	4	9	6	5	7	8	1	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Left-handers; 9 Hammers; 10 Anvil; 11 Attic; 12 Sten-gun; 13 Roamed; 15 Sledge; 18 Stopper; 20 Pleat; 22 Ashes; 23 Stand-in; 24 Freeholders. Down: 2 Emmet; 3 Treacle; 4 Assist; 5 Drake; 6 Ravaged; 7 Theatre seat; 8 Clandestine; 14 Another; 16 Lapland; 17 Presto; 19 Paste; 21 Elder. QUICK - Across: 1 Contraction; 9 Eatable; 10 Never; 11 Erode; 12 Certain; 13 Rescue; 15 Adhere; 18 Typical; 20 Urban; 22 Odour; 23 Genesis; 24 Remorseless. Down: 2 Outdo; 3 Tableau; 4 Agency; 5 Tenor; 6 Obviate; 7 Penetration; 8 Drunkenness; 14 Suppose; 16 Diurnal; 17 Aligns; 19 Cargo; 21 Basis.

Quiz

1. Who chaired the arms-to-Iraq inquiry?
2. What is recorded using a sphygmomanometer?
3. Who painted the Rokeby Venus?
4. Into which river do the Great Lakes drain?
5. In which county was the churchyard of Thomas Gray's famous Elegy?
6. In which country is the Great Bear Lake?
7. For which element is Ba the symbol?
8. Who was the commander of Apollo 11?
9. Of which country was Yitzhak Rabin prime minister?
10. Who wrote Les Fleurs du mal?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Rita Hayworth; 2 Navarre; 3 Australian; 4 Longchamp; 5 Aaron; 6 Quakers; 7 St Luke; 8 Meerschaum; 9 Kentucky; 10 Gilbert and George.

Niner: PHILANDER

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

12385 gives a large bird,
439 gives a fish,
876 gives another fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Abbey Road, BEARWOOD,
NEW
CHAIN FREE 3 BED WITH GARAGE!!!! Spacious refurbished property comprising, vestibule, hallway, through lounge, refitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom(with separate shower), cloakroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens, garage
Offers Around £159,950

Rathbone Road, SMETHWICK,
NEW
Spacious well presented mid terrace freehold property boasting period features, comprising; two reception rooms, modern kitchen, four piece refitted bathroom suite, two double bedrooms, fore & rear gardens, double glazed & gas central heating
Offers Around £149,950

Dunsford Road, SMETHWICK,
NEW
Mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, part double glazed, centrally heated, front and rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY/ INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! NO CHAIN!
Offers Around £120,000

Hales Lane, SMETHWICK,
NEW
An immaculate family home comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, utility area, three bedrooms (master en-suite), refitted family bathroom, double glazed, centrally heated, large rear garden, driveway. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!
Offers Around £164,950

Pool Road, SMETHWICK,
VIEWING RECOMMENDED
Spacious semi detached property over looking Victoria Park comprising, hallway, cloakroom, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, six bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, D/G and C/H, garage, driveway, front and rear gardens. VIEWING RECOMMENDED!
Offers Around £195,000

Selsey Road, EDGBASTON,
End terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three good sized bedrooms, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE/INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!!!
Offers Around £112,995

Devon Road, BEARWOOD,
VIEWING RECOMMENDED
Well maintained family home in Warley Woods area, comprising, porch, hallway, through lounge, extended refitted kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, refitted bathroom, block paved driveway, rear garden.
Offers Around £194,950

Abbey Road, BEARWOOD,
VIEWING RECOMMENDED
Well maintained semi detached property with views overlooking Warley Woods, porch, entrance hallway, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, rear garden.
Offers Around £160,000

Katherine Road, BEARWOOD,
MUST BE SEEN
●●●CHARACTER FEATURES●●● Well maintained mid terraced property comprising, vestibule, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, refitted bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens.
Offers Over £140,000

Trafalgar Road, SMETHWICK,
● Three Storey Terrace ● Two Reception Rooms ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Upstairs Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Ideal First Time Purchase ● Viewing is recommended
Offers Around £109,950

Park Hill Road, SMETHWICK,
SSTC
● Mid Terrace Property ● Two Reception Rooms ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Lean-to ● Three Bedrooms ● Ideal Investment/First Time Purchase ● No Upward Chain
Offers Around £104,950

Sabell Road, SMETHWICK,
SSTC
Mid terraced property offered with no onward chain comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY!
Offers Around £94,950

Broadmoor Avenue, SMETHWICK,
SSTC
Spacious semi detached comprising, porch, hallway, through lounge, extended kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed & centrally heated, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUYERS!
Offers Around £114,950

Wattis Road, BEARWOOD,
SSTC
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY to purchase a mid terraced property in desirable location, comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, two double bedrooms, DG and CH, front and rear gardens.
Offers Around £104,950

Slatch House Road, SMETHWICK,
REDUCED
End town house comprising, hallway, reception room, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed & centrally heated where specified, front & rear gardens. Ideal investment!
Offers Around £86,000

Gilbert Road, SMETHWICK,
REDUCED
Mid terraced property comprising, reception room, kitchen/diner, inner hallway, bathroom with walk in shower, two bedrooms, electric heating, front and rear gardens. Close to shops and buses.VERY QUIRKY. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!
Offers Around £90,000

Arley Villas, WINSON GREEN,
Well maintained terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, loft room, IDEAL INVESTMENT/ FIRST TIME PURCHASE!
Offers Around £87,500

Parkes Street, SMETHWICK,
NOTICE OF OFFER - We advise that an offer has been made on the above property in the sum of £82000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. 33-35 Cape Hill, Smethwick, B66 4RX.
Offers Around £85,000

Offices at:
12 Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5RD 33-35 Cape Hill, Smethwick, B66 4RX

Refurbished farmhouse retains original features

WESTVIEW Farmhouse in Clive Road, Pattingham, near Wolverhampton, is an attractive Grade II listed Georgian residence.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £599,950.

The house has been restored and refurbished to a high standard, retaining its charm and character, whilst all the convenience of modern appliances have been installed. It has a drawing room with inglenook fireplace, dining room, breakfast kitchen with utility, guest WC, study, cellar, four bedrooms, master bedroom with dressing room and en suite bathroom and a further house bathroom. There is a detached garage and rear gardens mostly laid to lawn but have an extensive entertaining terrace.

Call 01902 427257 or visit the website at www.dbroberts.co.uk

Extended detached character cottage

THIS charming, extended detached cottage of character and charm in Newbridge Avenue, Newbridge, Wolverhampton, has open views over playing fields at the side.

With possible extension potential, it is for sale through Jackson Lile at £315,000.

It has an a dining room with bay window, inglenook fireplace and beamed ceiling, an extended lounge/sitting room with Minster stone fireplace and French doors to the garden, an extended and superbly fitted country kitchen with a breakfast area, pantry/utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, playroom/possible bedroom four in need of renovation with beams, dressing room/box room, garage, and a sunny rear garden.

Contact Jackson Lile on 01902 712812 or visit the website at www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk

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£675pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Hill Street

- Three bed detached home
- Fitted kitchen diner
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating (where specified)
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Private garden

£650pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane

- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

EPC: D

Tividale
City Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

£525pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Hellier Avenue

- Two bed semi
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- ORP
- Kitchen with oven and hob
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm

EPC: F

DSS ACCEPTED

Tipton
St Marks Road

- Second floor flat
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower over
- Communal gardens
- Gas centrally heating
- Unfurnished
- Available immediately

£525pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Devey Drive

- Two bed semi
- Double glazed windows
- GCH
- Lounge with feature fire
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- Bathroom with corner shower

£525pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Lissimore Drive

- Two bed apartment
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- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower
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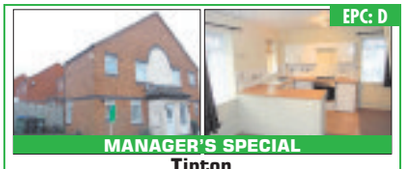

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Plenty of potential in a home to be modernised

THERE is no chain for this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Holly Road, Oldbury, on sale through Braithwaites at £159,950.

In need of modernisation and having gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has a side garden with space for an extension subject to permission.

There is a lounge/dining area with a front bay window and sliding patio doors out to the rear garden, a kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with separate WC, front and rear gardens, garage and drive.

Contact Braithwaites on 0121 4211180 or visit the agent's website at www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk

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8 Madin Road, Tipton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
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127 Bruford Road, Wolverhampton
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3 Broadstone Close, Wolverhampton
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Guide: £75,000 plus

53 Prosser Street, Wolverhampton
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

174 Appleton Grove, Great Barr
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3 Gladys Terrace, Smethwick
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
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- Two Receptions
- Conservatory
- Pleasant garden
- Driveway & parking

SMETHWICK £169,950
Crown Street, B66
- Four Bedrooms
- New build Coach House
- Double glazed
- Kitchen/Diner
- Parking & Garage

EDGBASTON £119,995
Barleycorn Drive, B16
- One Bedroom
- Large Lounge
- Double glazed
- Parking & Garage
- Ideal for FTB

SMETHWICK £107,995
Hales Crescent, B67
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Driveway

SMETHWICK £105,950
Arden Road, B67
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Loft Conversion
- Ideal for FTB
- Quick sale required

QUINTON £500 PCM
Norman Avenue, B32
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Through Lounge
- Two Bathrooms
- Spacious Kitchen
- Driveway

HARBORNE £650 PCM
Northfield Road, B17
- Four Bedrooms
- Large Kitchen/Diner
- Double glazed
- Modern Bathroom suite
- Two Bathrooms

SMETHWICK £600 PCM
Manor Road, B67
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Reception
- Kitchen/Diner
- Parking available
- Pleasant Garden

HARBORNE £750 PCM
Poole Crescent, B17
- Three Bedrooms
- Two receptions
- Fitted Kitchen
- Close to Q.E Hospital
- Driveway

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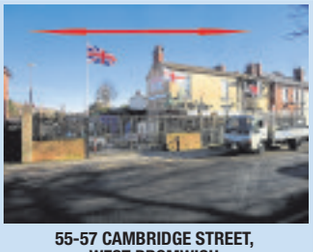
4 OAK AVENUE, WEST BROMWICH

55 CAUSEWAY, ROWLEY REGIS

1 COLLEGE GROVE, HAMSTEAD ROAD, HANDSWORTH

85 BRADES ROAD, OLDBURY

61 BEECH ROAD, WEDNESBURY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34 CHURCHFIELD AVENUE, TIPTON

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WEDNESBURY, Birmingham Street

- Extended Middle Terrace
- 2 first floor & 1 Ground floor Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Centrally Heated
- Double Glazed
- Energy Band D

Offers around £94,950

WEST BROMWICH, Kent Close

- Superb Mid Town House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Through lounge & conservatory
- Bathroom & separate wc
- Gas central heating, double glazing
- Energy Band C

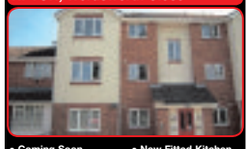
Offers around £119,950

BILSTON, Maple Court, Rose Street

- Newly Decorated First Floor flat
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Fitted Bathroom
- 1 Bedroom
- Open plan Lounge , Kitchen
- New carpets

Offers around £49,950

TIPTON, Wordsworth Close



- Coming Soon
- Top Floor Flat
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- New Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Tenancy application fee £180 single or £250 Joint

TO LET £425 PCM

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WEST BROMWICH, Mountbatten Close

- Top Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Furnished
- Tenancy application fee £180 single or £250 Joint

TO LET £425 PCM

TIPTON, Harrowby Drive

- Ground Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Tenancy application fee £180 single or £250 Joint

TO LET £360 PCM

WEST BROMWICH, Tame Street

- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms En-suite to Master
- Lounge
- Kitchen/diner
- Guest Cloak Room
- Family Shower Room

Offers around £134,950

OLD PARK ROAD

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- Detached Bungalow
- 2 Bedrooms
- Centrally Heated & Double glazed
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Private Road

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NEW PRICE

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

Most Impressive Well Presented Traditional Style Extended Semi, Popular Location, Viewing Highly Recommended EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Extended Kitchen
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Gardens, Garage With Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £199,950

NEW PRICE

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury

Unique Opportunity To Acquire This Well Presented Traditional Style Semi, Catchment Area For Good Local Schools. EPC - C

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility Room With W/C
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens, Off Road Parking & Rear Garage

Offers In The Region Of £184,950

NEW PRICE

Stanley Road, Oldbury

Well Presented Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Extended Semi, Easy Access To Local Amenities, Good Local Schools, No Upward Chain. EPC - E

- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Dining Area
- Extended Kitchen With Breakfast Area
- Three Bedrooms, Attic/Loft Room
- Bathroom, Separate WC
- Garage/Store Room With Driveway
- No Upward Chain Involved

Offers In The Region Of £184,950

NEW PRICE

Norman Road, Smethwick

Impressive Well Presented Traditional Style Semi, Conveniently Situated For Local Amenities & Good Local Schools. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Charming Lounge
- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C
- Three Good Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens & Off Road Parking

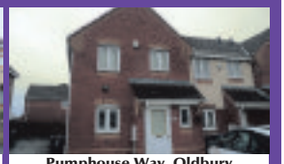
Offers In The Region Of £114,950

Holly Road, Oldbury

Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Semi, Popular Residential Location, In Need Of Some Modernisation. Offering No Upward Chain. EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge, Dining Area
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear & Side Gardens, Garage, Off Road Parking
- Potential To Extend Subject To Planning Permission

Offers In The Region Of £159,950



Pumphouse Way, Oldbury

Spacious Modern End Terrace, situated within walking distance to Local Amenities, Local Schools and easy access to M5/M6 Motorways. EPC-C

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway and Rear Garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £134,950

Leslie Rise, Tividale

Well Presented & Deceptively Spacious Extended Semi, Cul-De-Sac Location, Ideal First Time Purchase, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Extended Kitchen
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Viewing Essential

Offers In The Region Of £124,950

Cumberland Road, Oldbury

Most Impressive & Thoughtfully Reburbished End Terrace, In Excellent Order Throughout, Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location, NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/ Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen With Oven & Hob
- Two Bedrooms
- Attractive Bathroom Suite
- Pleasant Rear Garden

Offers In The Region Of £109,950

Dibble Road, Smethwick

Tastefully Modernised Spacious Traditional Style Terrace, Easy Access To Smethwick High Street, NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC - D

- Recently Re-Roofed
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Excellent First Time Purchase

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PUBLIC AUCTION

AT

THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
THIMBLEMILL ROAD,
SMETHWICK. B67 6NR

ON

MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015
@ 6.30PM

Lot 1: 134 WIGGIN STREET, LADYWOOD B16 0AH
Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced with central heating and double glazing, but needing improvement ..... £70 - 75,000

Lot 2: 23 CLARENDON ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6DA
Traditional 2 bedroomed terraced in need of improvement ..... £70 - 75,000

Lot 3: 24 WESTBOURNE ROAD, HANDSWORTH B21 8AT
Freehold 2 bedroomed end terraced in need of modernisation ..... £65 – 70,000

Lot 4: 9 DEXTER HOUSE, FORD STREET, SMETHWICK B67 7QX
Centrally heated and double glazed modern 1 bedroomed flat, Ideal investment ..... £55 – 60,000

Lot 5: 9 YORK AVENUE, WILLENHALL WV13 1JJ
Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached needing full improvement ..... £75 – 80,000

Lot 6: 13 HIGHFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6AP
Freehold double glazed & centrally heated terraced ..... £85 – 90,000

Lot 7: 40 FARM ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8RD
Freehold centrally heated 3 bedroomed terraced, in need of improvement ..... £65 - 70,000

Lot 8: 13 JACMAR CRESCENT, SMETHWICK B67 7LF
Traditional 3 bedroomed centrally heated semi, with garage ..... £110 – 120,000

Lot 9: 4 BROOK ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8AA
Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached needing full improvement ..... £circa. 70,000

Lot 10: 159 STONY LANE, SMETHWICK B67 7BA
Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated semi-detached ..... £95 – 100,000

Lot 11: 58 CORNWALL AVENUE, OLDBURY B68 0SW
3 bedroomed mid-town house with double glazing, in need of modernisation ..... £75 – 80,000

Lot 12: 98 RATHBONE ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5JF
Freehold centrally heated and double glazed 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of upgrading ..... £90 – 100,000

Lot 13: 43 DURBAN ROAD, SMETHWICK B66 3SH
Freehold 2 bedroomed terrace in need of complete refurbishment ..... £circa. 65,000

NEW

4 SHERWOOD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Extended mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & occasional bed. 3/ box room
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Kitchen and extended utility/ dining room
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON £180,000
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

78 GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Superbly presented and refurbished
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and open plan dining/fitted kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden
- Detached garage at rear
- Potential off-street parking for two cars

OFFERS BASED ON £155,000
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

83 TRAFALGAR ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Much improved corner residence
- Gas centrally heated
- Two large double bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Utility/washroom/WC
- Substantial garage
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £112,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

40 UPPER MEADOW ROAD, QUINTON

- 3 bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Downstairs W.C.
- Cosmetic improvement
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

8 CONWAY AVENUE, OLDBURY

- Immaculate and superbly presented
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled refitted bathroom with shower
- Hall, lounge, impressive 17ft dining/kitchen and laundry/utility room
- Off-street parking for two/three cars
- Neat laid out gardens
- Pleasant location at head of residential cul-de-sac
- INTERNAL INSPECTION ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £159,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

37 EDWARD ROAD, OLDBURY

- Superbly presented & refurbished semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated, PVC double glazed & alarmed
- FIVE bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom and separate cloakroom
- Hall, lounge and extended sitting room
- Kitchen/breakfast room with integrated appliances
- Utility/cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for two/three cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £244,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

70 GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, refitted kitchen and refitted fully tiled bathroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

36 ALEXANDER ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen/ breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £112,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

- Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

ROTTON PARK ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Spacious family accommodation
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen/ breakfast room
- Internal inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : E

Offers Based On £169,950
Viewing : Bearwood Office

8 SILVERTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Two bedrooms and bathroom
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Close Smethwick High Street
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £88,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

135 HURST ROAD SMETHWICK

- Close to Warley Woods & Lightwoods Park
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms & bathroom to first floor
- Spacious lounge & open access to dining room
- Kitchen and utility
- Downstairs W.C.
- Off-street parking for two cars
- IDEAL FTBS
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,999
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

52 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Two double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Refitted kitchen
- Recently refurbished
- VIEWING TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

68 FLEMING ROAD, QUINTON

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
- Spacious lounge and kitchen/breakfast room
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- In need of some cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON 109,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

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38 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented mid-terraced property
- Close to the main Bearwood Road
- Gas centrally heated
- Part double glazed
- Number of original features
- Two double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

32 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

- Well presented ground floor flat
- PVC double glazed and well heated
- Gated development
- Superb through lounge/dining room
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen and bathroom
- Garage and communal gardens
- FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE

OFFERS BASED ON £84,950
Viewing: Bearwood Office

28 LOXLEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Deceptively spacious mid-terraced property
- Virtually double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Dining room and lounge
- Kitchen and laundry
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

TOM GILES & CO

Oldbury
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team

NEW
TIVIDALE

TAYLOR WAY
Detached family residence comprising porch, entrance hall, dining room, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge, utility, three double bedrooms, ensuite shower, bathroom, storeroom, central heating, double glazing, block paved driveway and established private rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £189,950

NEW
OLDBURY

FLORENCE ROAD
A double fronted semi-detached house in need of general improvement and updating. Comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, rear lobby, ground floor toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom. Central heating, double glazing, established gardens to front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £114,950

NEW
WEST BROMWICH

JOWETTS LANE
Semi-detached house occupying a corner location offering scope for extension subject to planning. In need of minor updating. Porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, verandah, two bedrooms, shower room, central heating, part double-glazing,off road parking and gardens. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £104,950

OLDBURY

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD
Traditional detached family residence. Porch, reception hall, utility room, breakfast kitchen, cloakroom, sitting room, lounge, four bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off road parking, cellar and established rear garden. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £349,950

REDUCED
OLDBURY

SANDFIELDS ROAD
Detached family residence in need of general updating. Porch, entrance hall, utility room, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. Established gardens, outside toilet, off road parking and detached garage at rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £165,000

SMETHWICK

BISHOPTON ROAD
An opportunity to acquire an Edwardian terraced house in need of improvement and modernisation comprising front sitting room, lobby, understairs store cupboard, rear sitting room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Garden at rear. EPC Rating G
Offers in the region of £139,950

REDUCED
TIVIDALE

REGENT ROAD
A traditional semi-detached house improved in recent years. Porch, entrance hall, through lounge/dining room, "L" shaped kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Block paved driveway and private rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £129,950

WEST BROMWICH

LIVINGSTONE ROAD
An opportunity to acquire a modern end town house situated within a poplar sought after development. The accommodation comprises lounge/dining room, kitchen, stairs to two bedrooms, and bathroom. Central heating and double glazing, rear garden and parking for two vehicles. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £109,950

OLDBURY

KINNERSLEY CRESCENT
Improved spacious semi-detached house comprising reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, understairs pantry cupboard, three bedrooms, airing cupboard, shower room. Off road parking. Established rear garden. Central Heating, Double Glazing. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £109,950

REDUCED
TIPTON

NEWCOMEN DRIVE
Mid terraced house in need of minor improvement comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, shower room, central heating and double glazing. Parking to front and paved rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C
Price: £104,950

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WEST BROMWICH

PRINCES GATE
A first floor flat comprising communal entry phone entrance, staircase extending to first floor landing, metal entrance door to reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, electric heating and double glazing, allocated car parking space. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £84,950

TIPTON

HOLCROFT STREET
Well presented spacious flush fronted terraced property. Double glazing and gas central heating to entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, downstairs toilet, two bedrooms, bathroom. Rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in excess of £76,000

OLDBURY

LANGLEY MEDE, CROSSWELLS ROAD
Ground floor flat offering spacious accommodation and situated in a convenient location an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity, we are pleased to offer this . Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms, airing cupboard, bathroom. Gardens to front and side. Rear parking. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £69,950

TO LET
OLDBURY

TITFORD ROAD
Second floor unfurnished flat comprising communal front entrance with entry phone system, L shaped hallway, stores, lounge/dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, electric heating, double glazing, residents and visitors parking, communal gardens. EPC Rating TBC
£500 pcm

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MANOR LANE, HALESOWEN

NEW PRICE
EXTENDED detached family home with SOUTHERLY rear aspect. Dining room & EXTENDED 25ft lounge to rear. 21ft breakfast kitchen with appliances & separate utility room. Having STUDY/playroom & D/S WC. 5 bedroom, LARGE family bathroom with shower & ADDITIONAL shower room. GARAGE & driveway to front - lots of parking. EXTENSIVE lawn garden with patio area. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D
£449,950 Ref: D1547

HAGLEY RD WEST, HALESOWEN

NEW PRICE
REFURBISHED detached home on LARGE plot giving scope to extend further. REFITTED kitchen diner & 2 reception rooms. REFITTED utility room & REFITTED d/s shower room. 4 bedrooms on 1st & 2nd floors along with a play area/dressing area on 2nd floor with bed 4. REFITTED LUXURY bathroom with shower. Gravelled DRIVEWAY with lots of parking! UPVC DG & GCH. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: D Ref: D1544
£399,950 Ref: D1544

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW
DETACHED home with SOUTHERLY rear garden overlooking GOLF COURSE. 16ft lounge leading to 12ft dining area with 10ft CONSERVATORY to rear. FITTED 12ft10 kitchen with appliances. 3 bedrooms all over 12ft on 1st floor & family bathroom. BLOCKPAVED driveway to front leading to carport. Rear garden having 17ft outbuilding/games room/office. Gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1562
£275,000 Ref: D1562

SHERWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

NEW
SPACIOUS & EXTENDED home close to Bearwood High Street & parks. Reception room to front & OPEN PLAN kitchen diner to rear leading to lean-to utility room. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on first floor. Low maintenance gardens. Gas central heating & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: Ref: D1568
£180,000 Ref: D1568

PERRY HILL ROAD, OLDBURY

NO CHAIN - Well presented EXTENDED semi with PARKING to front - SITUATED CLOSE TO OLDBURY QUINTON BORDER & HAGLEY ROAD. Lounge & 22ft kitchen/diner/family room, 3 bedrooms on first floor, bathroom & loft room. Enclosed garden to rear. Majority UPVC double glazing & gas central heating - EPC rating E. Ref: D1521
£179,950 Ref: D1521

WOODBOURNE PLACE, QUINTON

NEW
BRAND NEW HOME - available with HELP TO BUY scheme. CUL-DE-SAC location on new development close to Tesco superstore & bus routes into Birmingham. 17ft FITTED kitchen diner with appliances leading to lawn rear garden. Lounge to front & downstairs WC. Master bedroom with EN-SUITE shower room, 2 further bedrooms & family bathroom - WHITE suite. GCH & DG fitted. Blockpaved driveway. EPC rating: Ref: D1558
£169,995 Ref: D1558

RIDGACRE RD WEST, QUINTON

NEW
EXTENDED & WELL PRESENTED home with BLOCKPAVED driveway giving off road parking to front. Lounge to front with EXTENDED 17ft kitchen diner to rear WITH APPLIANCES. Utility room also to rear. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. Extensive rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1571
£167,500 Ref: D1571

RAMSAY ROAD, OLDBURY

MUCH IMPROVED 3 bed semi with off road parking REFITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN & well proportioned lounge, utility room & d/s WC. UPVC CONSERVATORY to rear (2014). 3 bedrooms & REFITTED BATHROOM. BLOCK PAVED parking to front for multiple vehicles. LOW MAINTENANCE rear garden with SUNNY ASPECT. UPVC DBG & GCH. EPC Rating D. Ref: D1315
£164,950 Ref: D1315

WEST BOULEVARD, QUINTON

NEW
LARGE 4 bedroom semi-detached home with gated DRIVEWAY. 25ft lounge diner & 14ft 9 kitchen. Having a downstairs bathroom. Four bedrooms & WC on first floor. Driveway giving off road parking for SEVERAL VEHICLES. Lawn garden to rear. Gas central heating & majority double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1454
£159,950 Ref: D1454

MILCOTE ROAD, SMETHWICK

NEW
EXTENDED terraced home with WESTERLY facing rear garden close to Bearwood High Street & Lightwoods Park. 26ft lounge diner & 14ft modern kitchen leading to downstairs bathroom. 3 bedrooms and a WC on first floor. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing fitted. LOW MAINTENANCE gardens to front & rear. EPC rating: E Ref: D1567
£149,950 Ref: D1567

WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON

NEW
WELL PRESENTED semi-detached home. Having 13ft dining room leading to a REFITTED kitchen. Separate 12ft lounge overlooking rear garden. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom on first floor. Rear garden having south westerly aspect with rear access. Gas central heating fitted throughout. EPC rating: D Ref: D1566
£132,500 Ref: D1566

QUINTON RD WEST, QUINTON

NEW
NO UPWARD CHAIN - LARGE 3 bedroom terraced home. 2 reception rooms & REFITTED kitchen, lean to rear verandah & d/s WC. REFITTED bathroom. Lawn gardens to both front & rear. Majority UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC Rating D. Ref: D1572
£115,000 Ref: D1572

KNOWLE ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW
WELL PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED home with DRIVEWAY to front. Lounge, dining room & kitchen. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom with white suite on 1st floor. Off road parking to front & garden to rear. UPVC DBG and gas central heating. EPC rating: C Ref: D1561
£114,950 Ref: D1561

WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON

NEW
NO CHAIN - EXTENDED home with DRIVEWAY to front giving off road parking. 21ft lounge diner, EXTRA room to rear & 12ft kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms on first floor & bathroom with white suite. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing. Lawn garden with REAR access & GARAGE. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1574
£99,995 Ref: D1574

COOMBS ROAD, HALESOWEN

NEW
NO UPWARD CHAIN - 1st floor maisonette with PARKING to rear. 14ft lounge with WESTERLY views to rear, with kitchen to front. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & fitted shower room. 13ft ATTIC room with velux windows & WC. Communal lawn gardens to rear. 99 year lease from June 1986. EPC rating: D Ref: D1570
£99,950 Ref: D1570

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

NEW
NO CHAIN - REFURBISHED ground floor apartment with PARKING to rear. REFITTED kitchen with double doors leading to 12ft lounge with MODERN fittings. REFITTED bathroom with white suite & LED downlighters. DOUBLE bedroom with built in wardrobe. UPVC double glazing & electric heating. Communal lawn gardens. EPC rating: E Ref: D1573
£73,995 Ref: d1573

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SMETHWICK, Bartleet Road

Rare opportunity to acquire a spacious, delightfully presented 4 BEDROOMED DETACHED upon this popular development, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, sitting room/study, delightful lounge (archway to) dining area, fitted breakfast kitchen (having integral oven/hob), utility, downstairs w.c, 4 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), super re-fitted house bathroom, pleasant rear garden, LARGE DOUBLE GARAGE. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the region of £279,950

OLDBURY, Goodwyn Avenue

Deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this popular neighbourhood, requiring some modernisation but offering potential, having double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, rear vestibule area, 3 bedrooms, shower room, drive providing off road parking, garage and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £154,950

SMETHWICK, Thimblemill Road

Well presented, spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated and truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive lounge, dining/sitting room, re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £154,950

OLDBURY, Elm Croft

A deceptive, well proportioned, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this popular neighbourhood, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating, and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage/useful store and rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £149,950

TIVIDALE, OLDBURY, Ashtree Road

Deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining/sitting room, attractive breakfast kitchen, side vestibule, downstairs shower room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £129,950

OLDBURY, Sycamore Road

A chance to acquire an attractive 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, convenient for local shopping facilities, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers in the Region Of £119,950

OLDBURY, Langley High Street

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, 3 BED family home occupying a pleasant position, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :- Welcoming hall, useful cellar, lounge, sitting room, large GAMES ROOM/HOBBY ROOM, DINING KITCHEN, downstairs shower room, 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS (master with fitted wardrobes and bed 2 having EN-SUITE BATHROOM), house bathroom, garden/off road parking, DETACHED GARAGE. WAS £320,000, NOW £310,000 EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price — Offers in Excess of £310,000

OLDBURY, Birchfield Lane

Attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, spacious lounge, super re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), rear vestibule area (having downstairs w.c off), attractive conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £129,950

SMETHWICK, Milton Court, Sandon Road

A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious 2 bedroomed flat, occupying a pleasant position within this retirement complex, conveniently situated for local shopping facilities available within Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden, communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain — Offers in the Region Of £69,950

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3 Bedroom End Terraced Property
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2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
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3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £54,000 - £59,000

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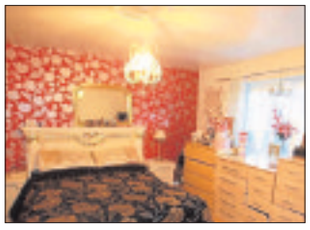
End of terrace with two lounges and bathrooms

THIS THREE-BEDROOMED end of terrace property in Hall Street East, Wednesbury, has spacious accommodation. It is for sale through Goodchilds at £130,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a spacious lounge, further dining room/lounge, and a modern kitchen with range of base and wall units, roll edge work tops, built in extractor hood, stainless steel sink and draining and tiled flooring.

The double bedroom has the benefit of built-in wardrobes and there are two further bedrooms. There are two bathrooms, one with bath and the other with shower.



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CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
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£249,950

HOPE ROAD, DY4 7DF

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal First Time Buy/ Investors
- Driveway, No Upward Chain
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£99,950

RICHARD WILLIAMS ROAD, WS10

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating And Double Glazed
- Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£107,950

POMMEL CLOSE, WS5 4QE

- A Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Leasehold

£79,000

WESTMORE WAY, WS10 0TR

- A Link Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£149,950

SHAW ROAD, DY4 7QA

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- No Upward Chain, Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£105,000

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£169,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended
- Through Lounge
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£203,950

WHITEGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

£114,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Freehold

£99,000

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold
- ONLINE AUCTION

Starting Pice £69,950

HOPKINS DRIVE, B71 3RR

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

WAS £224,950 NOW £220,000

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CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3DX

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms, Freehold
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£134,950

DAWES AVENUE, B70 7LS

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£109,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 0DF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£124,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 OHZ

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Conservatory
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£104,950

WHITTINGTON CLOSE, B71 3EX

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Vacant Possession And Freehold
- EPC RATING C, ONLINE AUCTION

Starting Price £79,950

VICARAGE ROAD, B71 1AE

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Downstairs W.C
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£127,000

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Blockall, Wednesbury
- Five Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen / Breakfast Room
- Sun Room
- Utility Room
- Two Garages

Offers in Excess of £290,000

Doulton Road, Rowley Regis
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIR of £219,950

Brookfield Way, Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- AMPLY OFF ROAD PARKING
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- REAR GARDEN
- OFFICE AREA
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.
- MUST VIEW

OIR of £187,500

Aster Way, Walsall
- Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Well Maintained
- Off Road Parking
- En-suite Bathroom
- Garage

OIR of £179,995

Hall Green Road, West Bromwich
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- KITCHEN
- GARAGE

£140,000

Jonah Drive, Tipton
- EX SHOWHOME
- Three Storey
- Three Bedroom
- Lounge
- Family Kitchen/Diner
- Ensuite Shower Room

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury
- SEMI-DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOM
- EN SUITE TO MASTER
- MODERN THROUGHOUT
- FITTED KITCHEN/DINER
- GROUND FLOOR W.C

OIR of £135,000

Hall Street East, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

£130,000

Greenwood Road, West Bromwich
- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Spacious Lounge
- Modern Throughout
- Kitchen Diner
- Double Glazing

OIR Of £130,000

Durham Road, Wednesbury
- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Wetroom
- Upstairs Family Bathroom

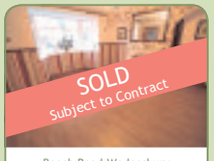
Offers in Excess of £120,000

Church Lane, West Bromwich
- Semi Detached
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms

£119,950

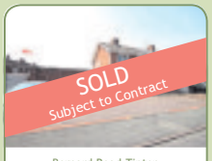
Horseley Heath, Tipton
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

OIR of £119,000



Beech Road, Wednesbury
- 3 Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Conservatory
- Kitchen / Diner
- Refurbished Throughout
- Guest W.C.

£110,000



Bernard Road, Tipton
- Semi Detached
- Well Presented
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms

£110,000

Rowland Hill Drive, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Town House
- Mid Terrace
- Ideal For First Time Buyers and Investors
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Off Road Parking

OIR Of £107,500

Salter Road, Tipton
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £105,000

Beech Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom
- Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing

OIR Of £105,000

Hackwood Road, Wednesbury
- SEMI-DETACHED
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE/DINER
- TWO BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM

OIR of £100,000

Wiley Avenue, Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- KITCHEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Damson Wharf, Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Will Bring £560PCM

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Mark Road, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Dingley Road, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Priced To Sell
- Fitted Kitchen
- No Chain
- Three Bedrooms

£86,950

Herberts Park Road, Wednesbury
- TWO BEDROOMS
- TERRACED HOUSE
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- RE STYLED KITCHEN
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN

OIR of £85,000

Booth Street, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- SECURE REAR PARKING

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- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

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Woden Road North, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Located Near A School
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Bloomfield Road, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £450

Dorsett Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Open Fires in kitchen and Living Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

The Avenue, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms First Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Vauxhall Road, Birmingham
- ONE BEDROOM FLAT
- GROUND FLOOR
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- BATHROOM
- KITCHEN

Monthly Rental Of £450

20 Harper Street, Willenhall
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- Secure Entrance
- SORRY NO PETS
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £425

Talbot House, Wednesbury
- First One Bedroom Studio Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Central Location
- Close amenities
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £250

Broadwaters Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

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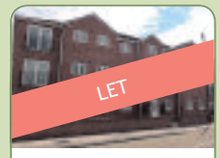


Russell Street, Willenhall
- Two Bedroom
- Secure Entrance
- Allocated Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Throughout
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £400

Circuit Close, Willenhall
- One Bedroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Good-Sized Bedroom
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

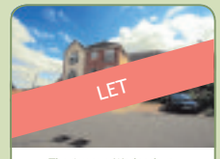
Monthly Rental Of £325

Princess Way, Wednesbury
- Two bedroom terraced property
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Cul-de-sac area
- Communal Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Myvod Road, Wednesbury
- Ground Floor One Bedroom Studio Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Brand New
- Fitted Kitchen

Monthly Rental Of £350



The Avenue, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Juliet Balcony
- Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Talbot House, West Midlands
- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- MUST SEE!!
- DHSS ACCEPTED

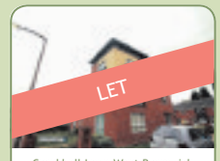
Monthly Rental Of £325

Dudley Port, Tipton
- One Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Central Location
- Gas central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375

Warren Close, Tipton
- One Bedroom first Maisonette
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Perfect First Home
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £325



Crankhall Lane, West Bromwich
- One Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Juliet Balcony
- Double Glazing
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £425

Talbot House, Wednesbury
- First Floor Apartment
- Central Location
- Close to Bus Station
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £325

Carver Court, Tipton
- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
- Off Road Parking To Rear
- Electric Heater
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £350

Elwell Street, Wednesbury
- First Floor One Bedroom Maisonette
- Double Glazing
- Gas central Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Perfect First Home
- SORRY NO DHSS

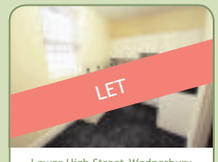
Monthly Rental Of £375

Wednesbury, Phoenix Rise
- One Bedroom Maisonete
- Double Glazing
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Off Street Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £380

Willenhall, Noose Lane
- One Bedroom
- Cluster Home
- Entrance Porch
- Separate Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £395



Lower High Street, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £425

Gomer Street, Willenhall
- Two Large Bedrooms
- Secure Parking
- Secure Entrance
- Two Bathrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £425

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Julie Croft, Bilston

- Modern Semi Detached
- Immaculate ● Improved Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 2 Bedrooms ● Garage, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £112,000
Viewing:

Richards Road, Tipton

- Middle Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- In Need Of Repair / Attention
- 3 bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £74,950
Viewing:

Julie Croft, Bilston

- Modern End Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 2 bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000
Viewing:

Summerhill Road, Tipton

- Improved Middle Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- 3 bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing:

Burns Avenue, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Accommodation
- 3 bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £79,950
Viewing:

Cranmore Close, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- 3 bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Squires Walk, Wednesbury

- An Edwardian 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge
- EPC Rating: D, Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £250,000
Viewing:

Thinking of Selling or Letting in 2015? Problem Solved

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Energy Rating: C, Modern Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £59,950
Viewing:

Birmingham Street, Darlaston

- A 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Private Driveway off Cul-de-Sac
- No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating: 63 (D), Gas Central Heating & Double

Viewing: £120,000

In 2014 we achieved:

106,807 website visits, 1,114 sale and let properties marketed, 6,900 applicants registered, 13,028 viewings arranged, 1,867 offers taken, 511 sales agreed, 243 lets agreed

Hydes Road, Wednesbury

- Individually Built Detached House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Reception Hall
- No Upward Chain, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

INVITATION

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Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Loft Room
- EPC D, Two Reception Rooms

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

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Not only did you find a buyer for my property in record time after it had sat on the market for months with another agent, but you also helped me find my dream home. This is an estate agency that doesn't just make promises, it delivers them. **Mr and Mrs Dutton, Walsall**

Having been with another agent for 4 months with few viewings and no offers, we changed to Paul Dubberley and within a couple of weeks we had received 3 offers and sold STC. **Claire Jennings, Walsall**

I genuinely believe that no other estate agent would have given me the service you did or achieved the price that you did for me. **Jennifer Corbett, Essington**

Right from instruction I felt you were proactive and had my best interests at heart and nothing was too much trouble **Jane Myatt, West Bromwich**

You have restored my faith that there are agents who offer good customer service **Ms Massey, Brownhills**

Ince Road, Wednesbury

- A Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Reception Hall
- EPC Rating: D, Lounge/Diner

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Handley Street, Wednesbury

- Well Presented End Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Energy Rating D, Further Ground Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Walsall Road, Wednesbury

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms & Loft Room
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating E, Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
Viewing:

To arrange a free valuation call your local branch today

Morris Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- A Modern Build Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- , No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £97,500
Viewing:

Morris Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- A Modern Build Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- , No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £48,750
Viewing:

York Crescent, West Bromwich — NEW

- A Modern Build Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Double Glazing, First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £200,000
Viewing:

Castle Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- Detached Corner Plot
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- Central Heating, Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £285,000
Viewing:

Bustleholme Lane, West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Extended Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- , Three Bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Grange Road, West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating, Downstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

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EPC: C

NEW

MANAGERS CHOICE

TEAL GROVE WEDNESBURY
- A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- EN SUITE TO MASTER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- CONVERTED GARAGE

£142,500

EPC:TBA

NEW

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

PARK STREET WEDNESBURY
- A THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOWNSTAIRS W/C
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS

£149,995

EPC: TBA

NEW

LEA AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOWNSTAIRS W/C
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING

OFFERS £149,995

EPC: TBA

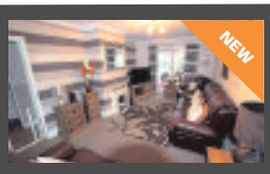
NEW

CLAYPIT LANE WEST BROMWICH
- FOUR BED MID TERRACE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- GROUND FLOOR WET ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN

£124,995

EPC: D

NEW



BEDFORD ROAD WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACE PROPERTY
- LOUNGE & FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN

£122,500

EPC: D

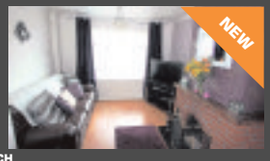
NEW

SPROAT AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- STUDY/BEDROOM
- KITCHEN & DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- HARD STANDING FRONT GARDEN & REAR

£104,995

EPC: TBA

NEW



WINCHESTER ROAD WEST BROMWICH
- TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- HANDY FOR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
- LOUNGE/DINING AREA
- CONSERVATORY
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING

£109,995

EPC: D

NEW

BRUNSWICK PARK ROAD WEDNESBURY
- TWO BED MID TERRACE
- UTILITY & DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZED & CENTRALLY HEATED
- FIRST FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- FANTASTIC LOCATION CLOSE TO MOTORWAY LINKS

£109,995

EPC: TBA

NEW

HOLLY ROAD WEDNESBURY
- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- GROUND FLOOR SHOWER ROOM
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£104,995

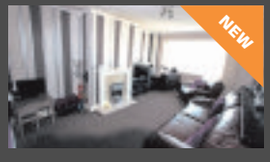
EPC: E

DORSETT ROAD TERRACE DARLASTON
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE & BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- LANDSCAPED, WELL PROPORTIONED GARDEN
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS OVER £100,000

EPC: D

NEW



LANSBURY AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- TWO BEDROOM SEMI
- LOUNGE KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZED
- PARKING

OFFERS £94,995

EPC: D

NEW

FRANCHISE GARDENS WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- DOUBLE GLAZED AND CENTRALLY HEATED
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- GARAGE IN SEPARATE BLOCK

£92,500

EPC: TBA

NEW

GRIFFITHS ROAD WEST BROMWICH
- TWO BEDROOM END TERRACE PROPERTY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- IN NEED OF MODERNISATION
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£75,000

Public Notice

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WE ADVISE THAT AN OFFER HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE ABOVE PROPERTY IN THE SUM OF £70,000 ANY PERSONS WISHING TO INCREASE ON THIS OFFER SHOULD NOTIFY SKITTS ESTATE AGENTS OF THEIR BEST OFFER PRIOR TO EXCHANGE OF CONTRACTS

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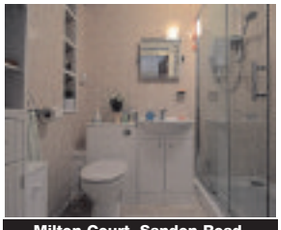
NEW

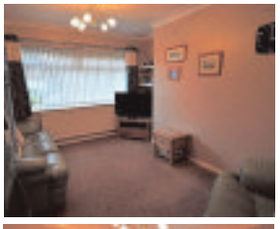
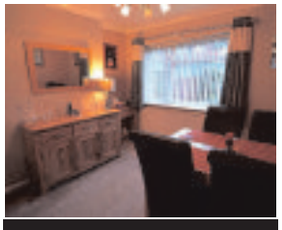


Milton Court, Sandon Road, Smethwick

- Attractive Retirement Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Contemporary Shower Room
- Residents Parking
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £69,950

NEW

Ferndale Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £119,950

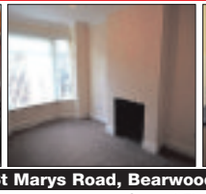
NEW

Aldridge Close, Oldbury

- Much Improve Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Contemporary Shower Room
- Modern Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £148,000

NEW PRICE



St Marys Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Upstairs Shower Room
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £134,900

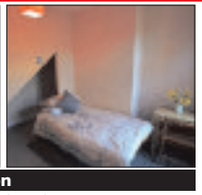
NEW PRICE

Park Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Period Features
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the Region of £159,950

NEW



Selsey Road, Edgbaston

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two reception Rooms
- Ideal Investment
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £129,950

NOW AVAILABLE

Portland Road, Edgbaston

- Most Attractive Modern Terrace
- Stylish Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Residents Parking
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating C

Offers of £62,000 for 40% Share

Abbey Road, Bearwood

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Close To Warley Woods
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £154,950

Gladys Road, Bearwood

Offers in the region of £94,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Much Improved Detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £349,950

Monmouth Road, Bearwood

- Thoughtfully Improved Semi
- Contemporary Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £264,950

Beakes Road, Bearwood

- Charming Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

Eva Road, Oldbury

- Delightful Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Established Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £104,950

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Cygnet Court, Smethwick

- Beautiful 1st Floor Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Excellent Transport Links
- EP Rating B

Offers in the region of £69,950

Hill Top Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Modern Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Shower Room
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £159,950

Ben Palfrey - Valuer

Ben joined the company in 2013, bringing to the team over 10 years experience working in customer service. He prides himself on his friendly and trustworthy approach. Ben will be the first face you see. He will visit your home to provide an honest and realistic valuation. He will provide recommendations and advice on how to achieve the best possible price. Ben has excellent photography skills, portraying each home in the best possible light! Ben enjoys spending time with his wife and son and preparing the way for their new arrival due in April! Ben is also a keen half marathon runner, raising money for various charities.

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Mokka is a clever package

By David Banner

Small crossovers should be fun and fashionable but that doesn't mean they can't also be versatile, capable and practical too. Like Vauxhall's little Mokka? Perhaps. Here's the new face of this changing brand and it's one you might find yourself growing to like.

Suddenly, Vauxhall design is all about the delivery of that most current of automotive traits, the 'lifestyle statement'. Has been ever since brand parent General Motors belatedly realised that profit, not market share, was of most importance in achieving commercial respectability. And the result has been a whole wave of interesting new models wearing the Griffin badge – the individualistic ADAM premium supermini, the stylish Cascada convertible and our subject here, the interesting Mokka small SUV crossover.

Under the bonnet, there are three main engine options, the most affordable, as ever, being the least desirable of the trio, the 2WD-only, 115PS petrol, 1.6-litre variant which, with only 155Nm of torque, needs to be rowed along a little with the gear lever – a stick that only offers you five speeds.

A better bet for petrol people is the Mokka we tried, the 140PS, 1.4-litre turbo. Sixty is just 9.4 seconds away enroute to 118mph, so it's usefully more rapid, and there's a healthier 200Nm of torque. Despite all this and the optional inclusion of 4WD, the provision of a six-speed gearbox and more modern mechanicals mean that this pokier 1.4 is actually cheaper to run than the feebler 1.6.

Specify

The most practical engine choice though is the one most buyers will probably select, the 130PS, 1.6-litre CDTi diesel capable of a top speed of around 119mph and rest to 60mph in around 10 seconds. You get all the main mechanical choices with this unit – so you can specify your car with six-speed manual or automatic transmission and with or without 4WD. Perhaps more importantly, you get a lot more pulling power – 300Nm in all. Every Mokka is theoretically capable of towing a braked trailer of up to 1,200kg in weight, but this diesel variant is the only one that'll really take such a task in its stride.

This Mokka sets its own course amongst small crossovers. Though supermini-based, like a Nissan Juke, it's nearly as big inside as a family hatch-style crossover like Nissan's Qashqai. But whatever your thoughts about this car's size, you'll probably agree that the way this Mokka looks will go a long way towards selling it. Cute and individualistic without being wilfully outlandish in the manner of a rival Nissan Juke.

Under the skin are the underpinnings of a supermini – more specifically, the Chevrolet Aveo, mechanicals Chevrolet has also used in its Trax small lifestyle crossover that's one of this Vauxhall's sharpest rivals. In the back, the rear seats benefit from wide opening doors that simplify the fitment of a child seat, though that sharply rising waistline might restrict the view out for smaller occupants.

As for luggage room, well, there's no high boot lip to negotiate and beyond it lies 356-litres of carriage space – about the same as you'd get in a MINI Countryman but 30 per cent more than you'd get in a Nissan Juke.

So, this Mokka's a small, trendily-styled five-door little SUV/crossover isn't it? Well yes. So it'll be priced directly against the other car we tend of think of in this market sector, Nissan's Juke, won't it? Well, no. Vauxhall points out – correctly – that their car is a significantly larger thing – hence the price span for the range that lies in the £16,000 to £24,000 bracket. To put that into perspective for you, that means you'll be paying a price premium of around £2,500 for this Mokka over an equivalent Juke.

As far as cost of ownership is concerned, it would be fair to call this Mokka 'class competitive'. As you'd expect these days, a start/stop system is fitted across the range (though only on manual gearbox models) to cut the engine when you don't need it, stuck in traffic or waiting at the lights. As a result, even the oldest engine in the line-up, the 115PS, 1.6-litre petrol unit, doesn't lag too far behind its 1.6-litre petrol Nissan Juke or MINI Countryman rivals, returning 41.5mpg on the combined cycle and 158g/km of CO2. As for the 140PS, 1.4-litre petrol turbo 4x4 Mokka we tried, well despite the extra power and weight, the figures are nearly as good – 45.6mpg and 144g/km of CO2. Much pricier all-wheel drive petrol Juke and Countryman models use much bigger, thirstier, dirtier engines that don't ultimately take you much faster.

Stacking up even better is the Mokka in 1.6-litre CDTi 130PS diesel form. Thanks to 'Clean Tech' technology that optimises combustion control, NOx nitrogen oxide emissions are reduced and overall efficiency is dramatically improved. To the point where the figures for this variant – 65.7mpg on the combined cycle and 114g/km of CO2 – get close to those of a MINI Countryman Cooper D that, with around 20PS less, takes around a second longer to get you from rest to sixty.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). ADAM GLAM 1.2i: Urban: 39.8 (7.1), Extra-urban: 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 53.3 (5.3). CO_2 emissions 124g/km.#

Personal contract hire offer on ADAM GLAM in Red n Roll on orders received between 9 February 2015 and 6 April 2015, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £2,502, then 23 monthly rentals of £139. Excess annual miles over 8,000 charged at 7.14 ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. You will not own the car. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. ‡First year insurance offer available on ADAM models only, excluding ADAM GRAND SLAM. All drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Terms and Conditions apply. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £99 to their premium and must agree to the fitting of a telematics box to the car: every 3 months, your policy will be reviewed and if you drive well, we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for consistently poor driving. Only available through ingenie. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Offers available on orders or registrations between 9 February and 6 April 2015. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Correct at time of going to press.

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Hyundai launches all-new Genesis

By David Banner

Hyundai's new high-technology premium saloon, the all-newGenesis, will be available in the UK from April 2 priced at £47,995 on-the-road.

Available in limited numbers, the new flagship model will be sold exclusively via selected Hyundai dealerships nationwide.

All-new Genesis clearly demonstrates Hyundai's capabilities in the areas of innovative technology, luxurious comfort, craftsmanship and premium style, delivering on the brand's promise to provide value beyond expectations. Available in the UK in a single high-specification form, all-new Genesis offers a unique opportunity to own the most refined and technologically advanced Hyundai ever made available in Europe.

A potent 3.8-litre V6 GDI engine delivers power to the rear wheels, working in conjunction with an eight-speed automatic transmission to ensure an effortlessly smooth and serene driving experience.

Demonstrating Hyundai's latest design philosophy, the sophisticated exterior of all-new Genesis incorporates clean, fluid lines which sweep down its flanks. A long wheelbase with minimal overhangs ensures all-new Genesis projects a sophisticated exterior style which flows through to the interior where all occupants can enjoy true comfort and calm.

Luxurious

Cocooned inside a generous and luxurious cabin that makes use of the finest materials, driver and passengers are offered a true sense of opulence and serenity. Complete comfort is delivered through a combination of plentiful space and first-class seating finished in fine grain leather. all-new Genesis is equipped with a suite of intuitive yet unobtrusive new technologies, including an advanced driver infotainment system that displays detailed vehicle information on an 8" touch screen.

Advanced safety features include smart cruise control, automatic emergency braking and the world's first CO2 cabin sensor, which monitors the quality of the cabin environment and helps protect the driver from the dangers of drowsiness. Four cameras offer a 360-degree view of the vehicle at all times, providing assistance to the rear cross traffic alert system which warns drivers of approaching hazards when reversing from a parking space. Blind spot detection monitors traffic around the car while on the road and warns of approaching hazards. A head-up display projects important information into the driver's line of sight, while visibility is aided further by Bi-Xenon headlights equipped with automatic high-beam assist function.

A myriad of convenience features fitted as standard include the Smart Boot System, which automatically opens the boot if the smart key is detected within close proximity for longer than three seconds. This system allows the driver to keep both feet comfortably on the ground, simply waiting by the boot for a few seconds for it to open automatically. Puddle lights, featuring the Genesis logo, illuminate the area around the doors, which are equipped with an automatic-closing mechanism.

All-new Genesis is available in a choice of seven specially selected metallic and pearlescent exterior colours, which have been chosen to best showcase the sleek lines of the car. To accentuate its spaciousness and offer a serene, relaxing experience, three elegant interior trim colour options are available.

Echoing the premium ambiance of the vehicle itself, selected Hyundai dealerships will introduce bespoke Genesis retail display areas. Featuring high quality furniture and premium materials, the Genesis area of the dealership will also be staffed by a specially trained member of staff fully versed in all aspects of the vehicle.

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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7 Jobs

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full time - general

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Purchase Ledger Clerk

Job description
Full Time Purchase Ledger Clerk required for immediate start to cover all aspects of Purchase Ledger across the two group companies.

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This position would ideally suit an energetic, resilient, and enthusiastic individual with good communication skills (both written and verbal), administrative skills and attention to detail. A passion to learn, a 'can-do' attitude and a winning mentality are key attributes;
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8 Motoring

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spares/parts

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public & legal notices

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or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

An application for a Premises Licence has been made by Afsar Ali to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of premises known as Mozalicious Balti Restaurant & Takeaway which are situated at 15 Langley High Street, Oldbury B69 4SN.
The proposed application is as follows:
The provision of late night hot food and drink. Hours of trading:
Sunday - Thursday: 17:30 - 23:30;
Friday and Saturday: 17:30 - 00:00 (midnight)
A record of the application may be inspected at Trading Standards and Licensing Section, Unit 33 Coneygree Road, Tipton DY4 8XR during normal office hours Monday to Friday.
Any representations by interested parties or responsible authorities regarding the application must be made in writing to: Trading Standards and Licensing, Homes and Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 2372, Oldbury B69 3BS within 28 days of this notice.

BETTY DOREEN RICKERS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 1 Barlow Close Oldbury West Midlands B68 8ND, who died on 07/12/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 24/04/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.
This is a major application.

DC/15/57834	RREEF Spezial Invest GMBH	Land Adjacent Swallowfield Courtyard Wolverhampton Road Oldbury B69 1JG	Proposed car park with associated lighting and sustainable drainage.

The application may affect the character or appearance of a conservation area.

DC/15/57856	Mrs Rajbinder Thandi King Street Smethwick	Land Adjacent Unit 6	Proposed waste transfer station including office building, enclosed sorting building, waste storage bays and weigh bridge.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The council has made **The Borough Council of Sandwell (Bowden Road, Smethwick) (One-Way Traffic) Order 2015**, effective from 23/02/15, to prohibit any vehicles travelling south west from St Pauls Road to Devonshire Road, Smethwick. This will make Bowden Road a one-way street. An exemption will apply to the police, fire brigade and ambulance service. Full details can be examined at: Mr Irfan Choudry, Highways, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE, during normal office hours, and on the council's website. If you wish to question the validity of the Order on the grounds that any aspect of the relevant legislation has not been complied with, you can apply to the High Court by 26/03/15.

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Harriers to run in higher division

WEST Bromwich Harriers had little problem in securing promotion to the second Division.

This was despite losing one of their leading runners, Gary Whitehouse with a metatarsal injury last week where he won the Walsall Park Run.

James Jefferies won the race at Coventry by a tight margin of one second from Oliver Paulin of Solihull and five seconds from Audrejeys Blakunovs of Sphinx AC.

Jeffries' time was 33.30 and as a result of this won three of the four races over the season and therefore won first overall.

Excellent packing with the first counting six to 26th position, secured a low total of 65points, and James was ably supported by fourth Richard Powell 34.55, eighth Girmal Dehl 35.37, ninth Adam Hancock 35.43, 17th Matt Whitehouse 36.36, and ever improving Lee Harris 26th in 37.32.

In addition a further 9 nine harriers completed the 5.75 mile course. Jim Greenwood 83rd 41.05, Paul Stevens 101st 42.27, Russell Collins 103rd 42.29,112th Andy Moseley42.53, Dominic Ashton 113th 43.11, Clark Woodhall 114th 43.13 and Paul Mansell 123rd 44.20.

Pulse Utd show no Fearon with 17 goals

Pulse football league

PULSE United's Sunday eight-a-side league campaign got off to the perfect start as they trounced league new boys Fearon FC 17-0 in a scintillating display.

They came in as heavy favourites against their inexperienced opponents, but there's always a certain danger that comes with facing the unknown.

Any fears or hints of complacency were immediately put to rest as they produced a performance full of the attacking verve and defensive solidarity that they have become well-known for over previous campaigns, eventually strolling to a comfortable victory. The result puts down a significant marker for the rest of the season, but there will be much tougher tests to come for the early pacesetters.

It proved to be a baptism of fire for Fearon, but they will be confident of improving it each week.

Elsewhere defending champions Yetihad began their season in style, prevailing 3-1 over Allstars in a hard-fought encounter.

Yetihad came in knowing it would be a tough test, with Allstars capable of upsetting anyone on their day despite their lowly league position last campaign, and they showed glimpses of that form here to give the holders all they could handle. However, it was the defensive qualities of Yetihad that carried them to glory last season which shone again as Allstars struggled to break them down over the course of the 40 minutes, eventually sealing an opening day three points for the champions.

The other game of the night saw Hoss Holes show their title credentials as they easily defeated Midlands FC 10-3.

Although relatively new to the eight-a-side league, a number of superb performances last season highlighted what they're capable of.

Tividale trample all over Tulips

Spalding Utd 0 Tividale 2

TIVIDALE continued with their impressive away form with a disciplined and well deserved victory at high-flying Spalding United.

The Tulips were on a 15-game undefeated run in Evo-Stik Division One South stretching back four months and started the game in impressive form when Adam Jackson sent a 25-yard drive high and wide after seven minutes.

Tividale went ahead on 24 minutes when a Foster free-kick was headed down by Richard Huckfield and Jordan Archer turned and volleyed home past Tulips keeper Michael Duggan.

The Lincolnshire outfit went in search of an equaliser and Thurlbourne forced Tividale keeper Charlie Price into a save from 12 yards after the visitors failed to clear their lines.

On 66 minutes Spalding's chance of getting back into the game went when Adam Jackson was given a straight red card for a wild challenge on Tividale right-back Chris Field.

On 76 minutes another Thurlbourne free-kick was deflected wide before Tividale sealed the points through Huckfield.

N'Doye dumps Villa into the drop zone

Hull 2 Villa 0

ASTON Villa slumped into the Premier League drop zone after being beaten 2-0 at fellow strugglers Hull City at the KC Stadium.

Dame N'Doye scored one and set up another on his full debut as Steve Bruce's side climbed out of the relegation zone at the expense of a brow-beaten Villa – prompting travelling fans to unfurl a banner calling for manager Paul Lambert to be sacked.

Football

The Senegalese striker, a £3m deadline day signing, was the key figure in a scrappy victory that could nevertheless have a profound effect on both sides' battle against the drop.

He showed a fine first touch and good awareness to tee up Nikica Jelavic for the 22nd-minute opener and settled matters deep into the second half with a close-range finish.

After drawing with Manchester City at the weekend a rare win on home soil – just their third this term – confirmed a feeling of renewed optimism in East Yorkshire, with the Tigers up three places to 15th.

But for Villa, the outlook is grim.

Not only does the result see them tumble into the bottom three with the worst goal difference in the division, it poses serious questions about their ability to bounce back.

Having ended their long goal drought in a losing cause against Chelsea on Saturday, normal service was resumed with a seventh blank in their last eight Barclays Premier League matches. When they started without Christian Benteke, they looked bereft up front; when they added him at half-time they barely improved.

His role is now one of many questions manager Paul Lambert needs to answer before it is too late.

The Tigers had hardly been electric up front but took the lead in thoroughly uncomplicated fashion.

Goalkeeper Allan McGregor launched the ball up field where N'Doye cushioned it with a neat first touch before threading a pass for Jelavic.

The former Croatia striker went low with his shot but was fortunate to see a huge deflection off Ciaran Clark loop the ball gently into the roof of the net for his seventh of the season.

Lambert made the logical switch at half-time, bringing Benteke on for the ineffective Andreas Weimann.

Hull seemed likelier to add to the scoring.

It was N'Doye who made it safe in the 74th minute. Ahmed Elmohamady's cross and Ramirez's header combined to pick out the striker.

Michael Dawson beats Gabby Agbonlahor during Villa's defeat away to fellow league strugglers Hull

Duffy's shot enough for the victory

AFC Tipton 0 FC Stafford 1

THOMAS Duffy was the goal hero as FC Stafford claimed a 1-0 away win at AFC Tipton in West Midlands Division Two.

He forced the ball home early in the second half when Andy Willacy's drive flew across goal.

In a hard-fought game of few chances, Stafford had a second-half penalty claim rejected after Willacy tumbled in the box as he chased Charlie Marshall's through ball.

Stafford were missing several key personnel.

Jake Robinson and Daniel Clarke were both drafted in for rare starts while Tom Waldron moved to join Robinson and Matt Rhodes as the midfield trio.

Pulis calls summit of seniors

TONY PULIS has called a summit of senior stars in a bid to clamp down on any disruptions or distractions in the Albion squad ahead of a final survival push.

Pulis met new captain Darren Fletcher, former skipper Chris Brunt and influential players Joleon Lescott and Ben Foster to ask them to police the dressing room for the final 14 games of the season.

The Baggies' squad has suffered turmoil in the last two seasons but Pulis is hoping his 'fab four' can set the tone for the rest of the team.

"It is general football on and off the pitch that we talked about," said Pulis.

"There are things I would like to see moved on a bit."

Dunne deal as single goal wins

Millwall 1 Blues 0

MILLWALL captain Alan Dunne boosted his side's Championship survival hopes with a match-winning strike in a priceless 1-0 victory at St Andrew's that dealt another blow to Birmingham's rapidly fading play-off hopes.

Long-serving Dunne earned Ian Holloway's side a deserved three points when he headed home in the 51st minute.

It capped an impressive display by Millwall, who tasted victory for the second time in three games and now remain in the drop zone on goal difference alone as they lie level on points with 21st-placed Brighton.

While Millwall have found some form, Gary Rowett's Birmingham struggled to really get into their stride as their poor run continued.

Blues have not won since beating Wigan back on January 10 and have now taken just four points from their last five games.

Millwall, who had been beaten 3-1 at home by Huddersfield in their previous match, made the kind of bright start that belied their lowly position in the table.

Birmingham's defence failed to deal with the ball after it was swung into a packed goalmouth and Dunnereacted fastest to nod home.

Whitehouse in Team rescue

St Martin's 3
Team Dudley 3

STEVE Whitehouse volleyed an 89th-minute equaliser to give Team Dudley a share of the points against St Martins.

The promotion-chasing visitors were 2-0 up after 21 minutes of the West Midlands Division One match, thanks to headed goals by Daniel Graham and Shawn Melusi.

Mitch Blackham gave Dudley a chance with another headed goal from James Hill's free-kick a minuted before the interval, and six minutes after the break Ryan Spittle tapped home to level the scores after Hill's shot from edge of box was saved.

Melusi got his second in a goalmouth scramble to restore Saints' lead in 64 minutes, but Whitehouse came to the rescue to make the final score 3-3.

Under-21s can't find the net at the seaside

Brigthton Under-21s 0
Albion Under-21s 0

Football

TONY Pulis was given a possible boost to his choice of team on Saturday when Jonas Olsson, who has been plagued by a niggling injury, and Jason Davidson both played the full 90 minutes as the Baggies' Under-21s were held to a goalless draw at Brighton.

A long-standing heel problem kept Sweden international Olsson out for four months, with his last action coming in the 3-2 Capital One Cup win over Hull City. Now there is a possibility he could make his first team return for the cup clash against West Ham on Saturday. Davidson was making his first appearance back in the Albion colours since returning home from Australia's triumphant Asian Cup campaign.

James Shan's men started brightly, and could have gone ahead after just four minutes only for Brighton keeper Harry Doherty to deny Wales Under-16 forward Tyler Roberts from close range to keep the scoreboard clean for both sides.

Adil Nabi then forced a superb fingertip save from Doherty, before Kemar Roofe headed straight at the stubborn Seagulls stopper who had little trouble keeping the ball out of the net.

After the break, George Cole tried his luck from long distance for the South-Coast side, and then Shamir Fenlon's effort was kept out of the net by Baggies' keeper Alex Palmer.

Adil Nabi, Alex Jones and Roberts all had chances to win the game, but Albion were unable break the deadlock and had to settle for a share of the points.

However, the result does extend the youngsters unbeaten run to eight league games in the Barclays Under-21 Premier League division 2, and leaves them just one point off the top of the table.

Albion: Palmer, Atkinson, Olsson, Davidson, Howkins, Birch, S. Nabi, A. Nabi, Roofe, Roberts, Barrow (Jones 60).

Unused Subs: Vaikla, Pace, Cleet, Smart.

Meanwhile, Pulis will welcome goalkeeper Boaz Myhill back to the substitutes' bench for Premier League game against Swansea at The Hawthorns after he missed the last two games with a gash.

IDEYE SAVES THE BAGGIES' BACON

Burnley 2 Albion 2

IN the first half the Baggies were awful. In the second they were average at best.

But against the odds and out of nowhere, they emerged from the north west with a draw that felt like a victory by the time they boarded their team coach for the journey back.

Football

And on a day when nothing else he saw would have filled him with optimism, Pulis will be crossing his fingers that Brown Ideye's 67th-minute equaliser can give both player and team an infusion of belief that was so patently lacking for most of Sunday's latest grim showing.

For the majority of the game, Albion's display was every bit as poor as anything that has gone before this season, under both Alan Irvine and Pulis.

Disjointed

They were disjointed, disorganised and at times shambolic at the back and, once the Clarets had raced into a 2-0 lead inside 32 minutes, there appeared to be no way back for a Baggies side with slumped shoulders and scrambled brains.

So to salvage a share of the spoils was not only an admirable show of unity but also a potential rallying point from which Pulis can galvanise his troops.

The solid debut from new captain Darren Fletcher offered signs of encouragement for the future, as did a lively substitute's display from Saido Berahino.

Baggies fell behind thanks to some shocking defending.

A cross from the right found Ings, who helped it back across goal for Ashley Barnes to outjump Chris Baird and head home.

Albion failed to gain any kind of foothold and were forced to use Berahino in the 18th minute when Victor Anichebe's injury curse struck again.

It did not get any better for Pulis' men, however, and they fell further behind on 32 minutes thanks to more inexplicably shocking defending. Brunt stood and watched with his arm in the air as Ings darted between two defenders to head home.

Albion gained themselves a lifeline in the dying seconds of first-half stoppage time.

Callum McManaman delivered an excellent corner from the left and Brunt arrived at the far post to bundle it home.

They were unable to pick up the momentum at the start of the second half despite a positive half-time change that saw Ideye replace the struggling Baird.

But out of nowhere they forced two corners and drew level from the second.

Brown Ideye scores to grab a share of the spoils for Albion as they fought back from 2-0 down

Olsson boost to Baggies

JONAS Olsson could make his first-team return for Albion in the FA Cup on Saturday after emerging unscathed from his first game in four months.

The Sweden international could figure in Albion's fifth-round clash with West Ham at The Hawthorns, which would be his first action since he underwent Achilles tendon surgery before Christmas.

The 31-year-old completed 90 minutes in Albion's Under-21s Premier League goalless draw at Brighton on Monday.

And head coach Tony Pulis said: "Olsson got his first game at Brighton and came through it, so that's a massive bonus and I might even be thinking about him at West Ham so we're really pleased with that."

Summer signing Jason Davidson also figured at Brighton, making his first appearance in Albion colours since returning home from helping Australia win the Asian Cup.

The Under-21 result extended the youngsters' unbeaten run to eight league games in the U21 Premier League Division Two.

No guarantees over Cleverley

VILLA midfielder Tom Cleverley is not guaranteed a starting role, says boss Paul Lambert.

Cleverley, on loan from Man Utd, was jeered by some home support when he was substituted in Saturday's 2-1 loss to Chelsea.

Lambert said: "You try and pick a team you think will win a game."

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